



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023

No. 15

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROSENDALE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 24, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, Sr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

WE MUST ALL STAND FOR LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, there is a reason that we hold our law enforcement, our firefighters, and our paramedics in such high esteem. It is because these men and women are called to protect human life.

As a doctor, I swore an oath to first do no harm, and to protect the sanctity of human life, working to care for those who are vulnerable.

Here in Congress, we also swore an oath to protect our country and to protect our citizens, and that means that we must all stand for life.

I am proud to stand for those who protect human life at all costs. I am proud to have cast my vote in favor of the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, and the Senate must urgently take up this important piece of legislation to protect human life.

Mr. Speaker, we are all called to love children who are created in the image of God. This Nation must bind together and work to protect all of those, both born and unborn, and this Congress must always stand for human life.

NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week, we celebrate National School Choice Week, and recognize that parents have the right to choose the school that is best for their children.

For the past 3 years, we have seen lockdowns and curriculum that failed to provide American students with the education that they so desperately need and want. American 9 year-olds have now lost two decades of progress in math and reading after prolonged school shutdowns and closings.

It is clear that parents need to, once again, have a greater say in their children's education. To make sure that that happens, Congress must act to protect these parents by passing the Parents Bill of Rights.

Parents have the right to know what their children are being taught in school. Parents have the right to see their child's school budget and the spending. Parents have the right to protect their children's privacy and to ensure that their children are safe in school.

Congress must commit to passing legislation that puts students and parents first. Let's work to recover the education that was lost during the school shutdowns, and let's work to

create a future that is built on freedom. Freedom for students, freedom for parents, and freedom for families.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANDY MORRIS, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Andy Morris, Jr.

Andy was the son of the late George Randall Morris, Sr., and Tami Benjamin Gane. He grew up in a loving home and was the oldest of three siblings.

Throughout his life, Andy was always very involved with athletics. He was a longtime member of the Brunswick Country Club and, in high school, was a three-sport athlete.

After high school, Andy attended Valdosta State University, and then began his career with the creation of Skippers' Fish Camp. Skippers' Fish Camp became a wildly successful restaurant and one of my favorite places to eat.

Above all, Andy loved being a father to his children, Tripp and Addie. Andy will be remembered as a loving father that always wanted the very best for his children.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Andy and with his family.

RECOGNIZING FIRST BRYAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize First Bryan Baptist Church in Savannah, Georgia.

For more than 200 years, First Bryan Baptist Church has been an important cornerstone for the Savannah community. This year, the church is celebrating its 235th anniversary.

In fact, the First Bryan Baptist Church is considered one of the oldest African-American Baptist churches in the United States. The church is

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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named for the original pastor, an enslaved man, Andrew Bryan.

To celebrate the anniversary, members of the congregation put on a play that showed the history of the church's founding.

The new pastor-elect, Reverend Christopher Pittman, will be the church's 20th pastor in its long-storied history.

Congratulations, First Bryan Baptist Church, on this wonderful anniversary. I hope your next 235 years are as successful as your first.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF TOM FANNING

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Fanning of the Southern Company.

Tom is the current chairman of the board, CEO, and president of Southern Company. For more than 42 years, Tom's excellent leadership has helped mold Southern Company into the great company it is today.

Tom has been responsible for leading the Nation's new nuclear initiative while at Southern Company. He has overseen the installation of two state-of-the-art units in Georgia, adding more than 4,000 megawatts of renewable energy since 2012.

Southern Company is the only U.S. energy provider investing in an all-of-the-above approach to America's energy future.

I thank Tom for his decades of service and leadership to Southern Company, the First District of Georgia, and our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BEBE FLYNN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Bebe Flynn.

Bebe was born in Lenoir City, Tennessee, in 1921. While living in Lenoir City, Bebe and her family were some of the few Catholics in town. In fact, a priest traveled to say mass once a month in their home. Maintaining her faith was always a strong focus for her.

After high school, Bebe attended Saint Mary's Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Knoxville, Tennessee, graduating as a registered nurse in October of 1943.

In 1945, she married her childhood friend and high school boyfriend, John Flynn.

In 2013, Bebe was the first recipient of Saint Patrick's of the Bishop's Award for her significant contributions to the parish as a volunteer.

Bebe and her husband, John, loved to travel in retirement, often with retirees from Denison.

She made friends where she went and was known for always keeping an upbeat attitude in life. She will be dearly missed by all those who knew her.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RUSSELL PEARCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I honor the life and legacy of Russell Pearce, a constituent, a colleague, a patriot, and a dear friend. Russell passed January 5, 2023, in Mesa, Arizona.

A fifth-generation Arizonan with a deep pioneer heritage, Russell was born June 23, 1947, to Hal and Norma Pearce in Mesa, Arizona. Russell had humble roots, but was raised by a loving, hard-working mother who taught him that he could make his own path in the world.

Driven by his faith, he knew that the principles of our divinely inspired founding documents established the United States of America as a bastion of liberty and peace. This belief ignited a sense of duty that led Russell to a life of success through service to his community, his State, and his country.

He first answered the call to serve in 1965 when he joined the Arizona National Guard during the Vietnam conflict. He served honorably until 1972, and, in the interim, joined the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, being sworn in as a deputy in 1970.

Law enforcement was in Russell's blood, as his ancestor, Joe Pearce, had been one of the original Arizona Rangers. Two of his own sons, Sean and Colten, have followed Russell's example, joining the MCSO and also the Gilbert Police Department, respectively.

In protecting his community, Russell demonstrated unrivaled toughness, courage, and dedication to duty. In 1977, while pursuing known gang members through a Phoenix suburb, one of them turned and fired. Russell was shot through the hand and chest, losing a finger. However, though wounded, Russell raced after the criminals and arrested them before seeking medical treatment.

He received the Medal of Valor for his actions, the department's highest honor. Russell's tenacity and excellence led to steady promotions, eventually reaching the level of captain.

After his first stint at MCSO, Russell was elected to his public office as justice of the peace for Mesa's new north justice district in 1991. He earned a reputation of trust from Mesa's citizens and public officials.

He rejoined MCSO when he was appointed MCSO's chief deputy in 1993 by America's toughest sheriff, Joe Arpaio. Serving as chief deputy for the largest law enforcement organization in Arizona and the fourth largest in the United States was a monumental task.

Russell developed not only a love of but a true talent for public policy. He crafted and successfully implemented major reforms aimed at cutting millions in taxpayer costs and reducing offender recidivism.

His success as chief deputy led to his appointment as director of the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety, where he led the Motor Vehicle Division. He created ServiceArizona.com, a first-in-the-Nation web service that made registration faster and simpler for Arizona motorists and exponentially reduced wait times and costs.

Of course, Russell is best known, nationally and locally, for his work in the Arizona State Legislature. He served for 11 years representing North Mesa in the Arizona State House first, and then the Arizona Senate.

While in the senate, Russell demonstrated the foresight to tackle the biggest challenges facing Arizona and its citizens. I was honored to serve with him and call him my friend and colleague.

Russell authored and introduced important legislation designed to shrink government. Ultimately, he was elected senate president and worked steadfastly to advance legislation that promoted the principles and values important to Arizonans: the right to life, the sanctity of marriage, defense of our southern border, and reverence for the Constitution and God-given liberties.

At times, Russell's courage to bring these issues to the front placed Arizona in front of national issues, such as the passage of S.B. 1070, which allowed, among other provisions, State and local enforcement of immigration law. That took foresight. It took immense courage to be the face of that legislation.

Russell Pearce was ahead of his time. With the current overwhelming crisis at our southern border, we see that States take the brunt of the consequences when the Federal Government fails to enforce our laws and protect our citizens.

Millions of Arizonans are freer, safer, and more prosperous thanks to Russell Pearce's courageous and farsighted leadership in addressing difficult public policies. Freedom-loving Americans across this great country enjoy the fruits of his efforts, thanks to their respective States modeling legislation after those crafted under Russell's leadership.

His professional and political legacy is truly unmatched and is only outshone by his love of God and service to his church, his loyalty to the country he loved and, most importantly, his beautiful family that survives him: his wife, LuAnne; his 5 children and 13 grandchildren.

To quote Russell himself:

"You know where my heart is. You know it is with this great Republic of ours and its freedom-loving citizens. I believe God had His hand in making America. We have the greatest document ever written by wise and virtuous men and the greatest country in the world because of freedom-loving people like you, the freedom-loving people of America. I, for one, will continue to fight to protect your freedoms from government encroachment. It is America's commitment to that freedom, personal responsibility, and moral government that makes us strong."

Rest in peace, Russell, and God bless LuAnne and the Pearce family.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National School Choice Week and the importance of school choice.

I was proud to join my colleague, Senator TIM SCOTT of South Carolina, in introducing the CHOICE Act last Congress, which would expand the school choice options and programs for elementary and secondary school children. I look forward to working together again on similar legislation.

I was also proud to join Representative JOHN MOOLENAAR last week on his resolution to designate this week as National School Choice Week.

In Iowa, we recognize that every child learns and processes information differently, and we have empowered parents and students to choose the school best suited to their needs.

We are fortunate to have Governor Kim Reynolds, who is leading the Nation in school choice policy, and who has been a strong advocate for school choice throughout her tenure.

□ 1215

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many children were forced to transition to virtual learning while some private schools stayed open. Unfortunately, this resulted in a significant drop in testing averages across core subjects like reading comprehension and math.

This proved, in some instances, that public schools weren't able to adapt to the needs of each individual student. However, some students in private or charter schools were able to excel because of smaller class sizes or specialized education tailored to their strengths.

I am honored to represent a State where we put parents first, where parents matter, and where parents have a right to a say in their children's education instead of Washington bureaucrats. As a mother of two, I understand how important it is to ensure that your children receive the best education possible.

I will continue to fight for school choice to ensure every child in America has a chance to succeed in the best possible learning environment. Our children deserve nothing less.

I would also like to wish a happy birthday to my nephew. Happy birthday, Andrew.

I would like to extend birthday wishes to Nicholas Pottebaum, one of my very first campaign volunteers and now a health policy adviser to Senator GRASSLEY. Happy birthday, Nick.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE JIM KOLBE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James Thomas Kolbe, an Arizonan, a decorated Navy veteran,

and a patriot who faithfully served my State and our country for most of his life.

James Thomas Kolbe always introduced himself as Jim, and that is how he will be remembered by all those who knew him and those in this Chamber who were his colleagues.

For 22 years, Jim also was well known in his hometown of Tucson and here in the Nation's Capitol by the position he held—Congressman.

Congressman Kolbe died on December 3 at the age of 80. He led a long, accomplished life, and I am honored, truly honored, to hold the House seat he held for 11 terms.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege as a new Member of the United States House of Representatives to offer this tribute to a man I considered a friend, a mentor, and a role model.

Jim was an elder statesman of Arizona politics. He was a proven vote-getter who knew how to build coalitions to achieve real results for his district, his State, and our Nation. He knew how to get things done in Washington but never forgot who sent him here and why. He was a tireless advocate for Arizona, and he brought that unique Arizona perspective to public policy debates for which this body is so well known.

Jim served alongside giants and, in the process, became one himself. Barry Goldwater, Mo Udall, Ed Pastor, John McCain, Jon Kyl—Jim knew and worked with them all. In fact, Jim got his first taste of politics as a young man serving as a page for the legendary Senator Goldwater, who was in his final term when the voters of what was then Arizona's Fifth Congressional District chose Jim to be their voice in Washington.

Jim was born in Illinois, the Land of Lincoln, but became a champion of the party of Lincoln in Arizona. He came to the Grand Canyon State when he was 5 with his parents when he left the Midwest for a ranch in the desert of southern Arizona, just a few miles from the border with Mexico.

Little did Jim know back then that our country's relationship with Mexico would become one of his signature issues as a Representative from a border State. Jim was a celebrity in the big small town of Tucson.

No matter where he went, everyone knew him. Folks would approach him in the grocery store, at the gas station, or on the street. When they stopped him and called him Congressman Kolbe, he would always make sure to remind them, "Just call me Jim."

I first met Jim when I was a student at Pima Community College. He was my hometown Representative. We continued our relationship long after that first meeting over two decades ago.

Jim gave me wise advice when I first decided to run for his former seat. I will always remember our regular catch-up meetings at Millie's Pancake Haus on the east side of town.

Jim was someone who came to the House not for a big title but to do big

things, and he did just that. He was an expert on trade and became one of the chief architects of the original North American Free Trade Agreement, which he was convinced was a key that opened the door to prosperity.

Fiscal responsibility was important to Jim. Our environment was important to Jim. Water was important to Jim. He was never reluctant to work across the aisle.

Jim was everything a Representative should be. He understood that the word "Representative" was not a job title; it was a job description, and that is why he came back to Tucson nearly every weekend to hear firsthand what was on people's minds.

Jim, my friend, on behalf of the men and women of our little corner of Arizona, thank you. Thank you for your service. Thank you for your steadfast commitment to making our district, our State, and our Nation a better place.

My prayers are with Hector and the Kolbe family.

RECOGNIZING PETE McClymont

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Third District native Pete McClymont for his contributions to the Nebraska beef industry.

Pete was raised on a farm and ranching operation near Holdrege, Nebraska, and has maintained a lifelong commitment to growing the Nebraska cattle business and advancing the State as a leader in agriculture.

With steadfast excellence, Pete has fostered growth in numerous sectors of agribusiness in Nebraska and recently announced his retirement after 25 years of service in several roles with the Nebraska Cattlemen, including the last 10 as the organization's executive vice president.

Nebraska's first nickname was "The Beef State," and Pete's list of accomplishments in maintaining that reputation is long. Despite having to navigate the difficult conditions of disasters, drought, and market challenges, Nebraska's beef industry is better for his leadership, and we continue to be grateful for his outstanding service.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WALTZ) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

O infinite one, Your love for us is great. You who are rich in mercy, bend Your ear to us and hear our prayers. Draw near to us this day and allow us to experience Your generous and forgiving embrace and to receive Your manifold kindness.

Then may we respond with the faith of our hearts and not just the ideas from our heads, for nothing we can conceive in our minds will come anywhere near to the devotion You desire of us. Help us to trust You with our innermost being and not just rely on the work of our hands, for the tasks You set before us are best accomplished when we yield our wills to Yours and align our efforts with Your grace plan.

For we are what You have made us to be. We are each unique witnesses to Your handiwork, created to do the good work You have called us to do.

Grant that all of us this day demonstrate the faith and trust You deserve in all that You have prepared for us. Then may our lives serve to glorify You as we call upon Your name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

FAMILIES FIGHTING INFLATION
AND DEBT IN 2023

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last year was difficult for the American family. Under disastrous policies of Biden and the Democrat-led Congress, inflation reached 40-year highs, causing everyday prices to skyrocket.

December marked the 21st straight month that inflation was higher than real wages. As a result, Americans are relying on credit cards as payment, and nearly half are carrying debt from month to month, up 39 percent from last year, according to Bankrate.

Credit card balances increased 15 percent versus last year, the largest increase in more than 20 years, according to a recent quarterly report of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

When Biden took office in 2021, inflation was 1.4 percent, but it has risen nearly 14 percent since then, destroying jobs.

The House Republican majority is committed to fighting inflation and lowering the cost of living, creating jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues, moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

Our sympathy to the family of Tom Young, Sr., of Aiken, South Carolina.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF
CAPTAIN JOHNATHAN BENTON

(Mr. ELLZEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I come before the House of Representatives to honor the legacy of Captain Johnathan Benton. Captain Benton tragically lost his life on January 16, 2023, in a small plane crash.

Johnathan was a man of service. He served our country faithfully for over 25 years in the Air Force. During that time, he was a command pilot with over 4,000 hours in the C-130 and KC-135. He was also an instructor and evaluator pilot.

He spent over 750 days deployed in support of conflicts in Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. He eventually retired as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force's Air National Guard for the State of Oklahoma.

After his time in the military, Johnathan served as the Government Affairs Committee chairman for CAPA as well as the Allied Pilots Association.

Johnathan never stopped serving our country. Through his role as chairman for CAPA and APA, he continued to advocate on behalf of Americans.

To his wife, Bridget, and two children, Nathan and Ashlynn Marie, I am

truly sorry. Your husband and father was a great man. He had a great big heart and loved you all dearly. What he gave our country cannot be summed up in a 1-minute speech, but the legacy he leaves and the good works he has done will last forever.

DEFENDING THE SECOND
AMENDMENT

(Mr. MCCORMICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of the Second Amendment, which is, once again, under attack by the unelected Federal bureaucrats in Washington.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives is seeking to reclassify firearms with pistol braces as short-barreled rifles, a classification which threatens to make criminals of tens of millions of law-abiding Americans who have already purchased these.

The extra red tape, fees, and registrations that the ATF wants to require is an unnecessary punishment for shooting enthusiasts who purchased perfectly legal accessories to their legal firearms.

This follows a long pattern we have seen for decades in Washington's antigun, unconstitutional policies, which could never make it through Congress as a law that is imposed upon the public through the rule-making process.

Americans are tired of unelected Federal agencies spending their tax dollars attacking and curtailing the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1730

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WITTMAN) at 5 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

CHANCE TO COMPETE ACT OF 2023

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 159) to implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 159

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Chance to Compete Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) **TERMS DEFINED IN SECTION 3304 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.**—In this Act, the terms “agency”, “Director”, “examining agency”, “Office”, “subject matter expert”, and “technical assessment” have the meanings given those terms in subsection (c)(1) of section 3304 of title 5, United States Code, as added by section 3(a).

(b) **OTHER TERMS.**—In this Act, the term “competitive service” has the meaning given the term in section 2102 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 3. DEFINING THE TERM “EXAMINATION” FOR PURPOSES OF HIRING IN THE COMPETITIVE SERVICE.

(a) **EXAMINATIONS; TECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3304 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (c) through (f) as subsections (d) through (g), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) **EXAMINATIONS.**—

“(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—

“(A) **EXAMINATION.**—

“(i) In this chapter, the term ‘examination’—

“(I) means an opportunity to directly demonstrate knowledge, skills, abilities, and competencies, through a passing score assessment;

“(II) includes a résumé review that is—

“(aa) conducted by a subject matter expert; and

“(bb) based upon indicators that—

“(AA) are derived from a job analysis; and

“(BB) bear a rational relationship to performance in the position for which the examining agency is hiring; and

“(III) on and after the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of the Chance to Compete Act of 2023 does not include a self-assessment from an automated examination, a résumé review (except as provided in subclause (II)), or any other method of determining the experience or level of educational attainment of an individual, alone.

“(ii)(I) An agency’s Chief Human Capital Officer may waive clause (i)(III) when needed to enable the filling of a position or class of positions.

“(II) Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Chance to Compete Act of 2023, the Director shall provide agencies guidance and instruction on the data, evidence, and circumstances that Chief Human Capital Officers of agencies should consider in determining whether to grant a waiver under subclause (I).

“(III)(aa) An agency shall post any waiver granted under subclause (I) on a public website within 30 days of the granting of the waiver.

“(bb) A waiver shall not be considered in effect until it is posted on the public website pursuant to item (aa).

“(IV)(aa) Each agency shall submit to the Director on a semiannual basis a report summarizing the number of waivers granted by

the Chief Human Capital Officer of the agency under subclause (I) during the preceding 6-month period and the reasons therefor.

“(bb) The Director shall submit annually to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives a report summarizing the number of waivers granted by the Chief Human Capital Officers of all agencies under subclause (I) during the preceding year and the reasons therefor provided by the agencies.

“(V) Not more than 10 percent of an agency’s positions filled through competitive hiring procedures during a fiscal year may be filled under the authority of a waiver granted under clause (I), and an agency shall obtain the Director’s approval to fill more than 5 percent of such positions under such authority.

“(B) **OTHER DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection—

“(i) the term ‘agency’ means an agency described in section 901(b) of title 31;

“(ii) the term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office;

“(iii) the term ‘examining agency’ means—

“(I) the Office; or

“(II) an agency to which the Director has delegated examining authority under section 1104(a)(2) of this title;

“(iv) the term ‘passing score assessment’ means an assessment that an individual can pass or fail;

“(v) the term ‘subject matter expert’ means an employee or selecting official—

“(I) who possesses understanding of the duties of, and knowledge, skills, and abilities required for, the position for which the employee or selecting official is developing or administering an assessment; and

“(II) whom the agency that employs the employee or selecting official designates to assist in the development and administration of technical assessments under paragraph (2); and

“(vi) the term ‘technical assessment’ means an assessment developed under paragraph (2)(A)(i) that—

“(I) allows for the demonstration of job-related technical skills, abilities, and knowledge;

“(II)(aa) is based upon a job analysis; and

“(bb) is relevant to the position for which the assessment is developed; and

“(III) may include—

“(aa) a structured interview;

“(bb) a work-related exercise;

“(cc) a custom or generic procedure used to measure an individual’s employment or career-related qualifications and interests; or

“(dd) another assessment that meets the criteria under subclauses (I) and (II).

“(2) **TECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—For the purpose of conducting an examination for a position in the competitive service, an individual or individuals whom an agency determines to have an expertise in the subject and job field of the position, as affirmed and audited by the Chief Human Capital Officer or Human Resources Director (as applicable) of that agency, may—

“(i) develop, in partnership with human resources employees of the examining agency, a position-specific assessment that is relevant to the position; and

“(ii) administer the assessment developed under clause (i) to—

“(I) determine whether an applicant for the position has a passing score to be qualified for the position; or

“(II) rank applicants for the position for category rating purposes under section 3319.

“(B) **SHARING AND CUSTOMIZATION OF ASSESSMENTS.**—

“(i) **SHARING.**—An examining agency may share a technical assessment with another examining agency if each agency maintains appropriate control over examination material.

“(ii) **CUSTOMIZATION.**—An examining agency with which a technical assessment is shared under clause (i) may customize the assessment as appropriate, provided that the resulting assessment satisfies the requirements under part 300 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

“(iii) **PLATFORM FOR SHARING AND CUSTOMIZATION.**—

“(I) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director shall establish and operate an online platform on which examining agencies can share and customize technical assessments under this subparagraph.

“(II) **ONLINE PLATFORM.**—The Director shall ensure that the online platform described in subclause (I) includes the ability of its users to rate the utility of the content and technical assessments shared in the online platform to allow for a ranking of such contents.

“(3) **REGULATIONS.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of the Chance to Compete Act of 2023, the Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe regulations necessary for the administration of this subsection with respect to employees in each agency.”.

(2) **ALTERNATIVE RANKING AND SELECTION PROCEDURES.**—Section 3319(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: “To be placed in a quality category under the preceding sentence, an applicant shall be required to have passed an examination in accordance with section 3304(b).”.

(3) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 3330a(a)(1)(B) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 3304(f)(1)” and inserting “section 3304(g)(1)”.

(b) **IMPLEMENTATION OF PASSING SCORE ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director and the head of any other examining agency shall eliminate the use of any examination for the competitive service that does not satisfy the definition of the term “examination” in subsection (c)(1)(A) of section 3304 of title 5, United States Code (as amended by subsection (a)(1)(B)).

(2) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—One year following the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report examining agencies’ progress in implementing the requirement specified in paragraph (1), identifying any significant difficulties encountered in such implementation.

(c) **OPM REPORTING.**—

(1) **PUBLIC ONLINE TOOL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall maintain and periodically update a publicly available online tool that, with respect to each position in the competitive service for which an examining agency examined applicants during the applicable period, includes—

(i) the type of assessment used, such as—

(I) a behavioral off-the-shelf assessment;

(II) a résumé review conducted by a subject matter expert;

(III) an interview conducted by a subject matter expert;

(IV) a technical off-the-shelf assessment; or

(V) a cognitive ability test;

(ii) whether or not the agency selected a candidate for the position; and

(iii) the hiring authority used to fill the position.

(B) TIMING.—

(i) INITIAL DATA.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall update the online tool described in subparagraph (A) with data for positions in the competitive service for which an examining agency examined applicants during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date of submission of the report.

(ii) SUBSEQUENT UPDATES.—Not later than October 1 of each fiscal year beginning after the date on which the online tool is initially updated under clause (i), the Director shall update the online tool described in subparagraph (A) with data for positions in the competitive service for which an examining agency examined applicants during the preceding fiscal year.

(2) ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each year, the Director, in accordance with subparagraphs (B) and (C), shall make publicly available and submit to Congress an overall progress report that includes summary data from examinations that are closed, audited, and anonymous on the use of examinations (as defined in subsection (c)(1)(A) of section 3304 of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section) for the competitive service, including technical assessments.

(B) CATEGORIES; BASELINE DATA.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Director shall—

(i) break the data down by applicant demographic indicator, including veteran status, race, gender, disability, and any other measure the Director determines appropriate; and

(ii) use the data available as of October 1, 2020, as a baseline.

(C) LIMITATIONS.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Director may only make publicly available and submit to Congress data relating to examinations for which—

- (i) the related announcement is closed;
- (ii) certificates have been audited; and
- (iii) all hiring processes are completed.

(d) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) assesses the implementation of this section and the amendments made by this section;

(2) assesses the impact and modifications to the hiring process for the competitive service made by this section and the amendments made by this section; and

(3) makes recommendations for the improvement of the hiring process for the competitive service.

SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO COMPETITIVE SERVICE ACT OF 2015.

(a) PLATFORMS FOR SHARING CERTIFICATES OF ELIGIBLES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3318(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “240-day” and inserting “1-year”;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) ONLINE TOOL FOR SHARING RÉSUMÉS OF INDIVIDUALS ON CERTIFICATES OF ELIGIBLES.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of the Chance to Compete Act of 2023, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall establish and operate an online tool on which an appointing authority can share, with other appointing authorities and the Chief Human Capital Officers Council established under section 1303 of the Chief Human Capital Officers Act of 2002 (5 U.S.C.

1401 note; Public Law 107–296), the résumés of individuals who are on a certificate of eligibles requested by the appointing authority. In carrying out this paragraph, the Director shall consult with the Chief Human Capital Officers Council and its membership to develop a plan to establish such online tool.”.

(2) PLAN.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall provide to Congress a plan to develop the online tool required in paragraph (5) of section 3318(b) of title 5, United States Code, as added by paragraph (1) of this subsection. Such plan shall—

(A) incorporate the input and feedback collected during the required consultation under such paragraph; and

(B) include estimated costs for building and operating the online tool.

(b) MAXIMIZING SHARING OF APPLICANT INFORMATION.—Section 2 of the Competitive Service Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–137; 130 Stat. 310) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) EXPLORING THE BENEFITS OF MAXIMIZING SHARING OF APPLICANT INFORMATION.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

“(A) the terms ‘agency’, ‘Director’, and ‘Office’ have the meanings given those terms in section 3304(c)(1) of title 5, United States Code; and

“(B) the term ‘competitive service’ has the meaning given the term in section 2102 of title 5, United States Code.

“(2) MAXIMIZING SHARING.—The Director shall maximize the sharing of information among agencies regarding qualified applicants for positions in the competitive service, including by—

“(A) providing for the delegation to other agencies of the authority of the Office to host multi-agency hiring actions to increase the return on investment on high-quality pooled announcements; and

“(B) sharing certificates of eligibles and accompanying résumés for appointment.”.

SEC. 5. MODERNIZING AND REFORMING THE ASSESSMENT AND HIRING OF FEDERAL JOB CANDIDATES.

(a) OPM REVIEW.—The Director shall conduct a review of all examinations for hiring for a position that the Office or any other examining agency has determined requires a minimum educational requirement because the nature of the duties of such position is of a scientific, technical, or professional position pursuant to section 3308 of title 5, United States Code, to determine whether there are data, evidence, or other information that justifies the need for educational requirements for such position. The Director shall consult with appropriate agencies, employee representatives, external experts, and other stakeholders when making any such determinations.

(b) ONLINE TOOL REGARDING POSITION DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall create and maintain an online tool that lists each of the duties determined to require minimum educational requirements and the data, evidence, or other information that justifies the need for these educational requirements. This online tool shall include a mechanism to receive feedback regarding data, evidence, or information that could affect the determination that a duty requires a minimum educational requirement.

(2) HIRING PRACTICES.—Not later than one year after the creation of the online tool under paragraph (1), the Director and the head of any other examining agency shall

amend the hiring practices of the Office or the other examining agency, respectively, in accordance with the findings of the review made by subsection (a).

(c) ONLINE TOOL REGARDING RECRUITING.—Upon the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish and maintain an online tool that provides Federal agencies guidance on, and information about, all programs and authorities that help agencies attract, recruit, hire, and retain individuals.

SEC. 6. TALENT TEAMS.

(a) FEDERAL AGENCY TALENT TEAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An agency may establish one or more talent teams (referred to in this section as “agency talent teams”), including at the component level.

(2) DUTIES.—An agency talent team shall provide hiring support to the agency and other agencies, including by—

(A) improving examinations (as defined in subsection (c)(1)(A) of section 3304 of title 5, United States Code, as added by section 3(a));

(B) facilitating writing job announcements for the competitive service;

(C) sharing high-quality certificates of eligibles; and

(D) facilitating hiring for the competitive service using examinations (as defined in such subsection (c)(1)(A)) and subject matter experts.

(b) OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.—The Director may establish a Federal talent team to support agency talent teams in facilitating pooled hiring actions across the Federal Government, providing training, and creating technology platforms to facilitate hiring for the competitive service, including—

(1) the development of technical assessments; and

(2) the sharing of certificates of eligibles and accompanying résumés under sections 3318(b) and 3319(c) of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 7. UPDATES TO SYSTEM OF RECORDS FOR HIRING ACTIONS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

(a) UPDATE TO SELECT SYSTEM OF RECORDS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and on a regular basis thereafter, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide guidance to all Federal departments and agencies to ensure appropriate use of a system of records, including any government-wide systems of records, to meet the requirements of section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Privacy Act”), in hiring actions in the civil service.

(b) GOVERNMENTWIDE SYSTEMS OF RECORDS AT THE OFFICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall ensure that any system of records notice updates required pursuant to the guidance provided under subsection (a) account for any use of newer technologies that capture records (as defined in section 552a(a)(4) of title 5, United States Code) in video, audio, and video/audio combination formats and accommodate maintenance of such video, audio, and video/audio combination records.

(2) EVALUATION FOR POTENTIAL UPDATES OR REVISIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall evaluate whether the governmentwide System of Records Notices (referred to in this paragraph as “SORNs”) “OPM/GOVT–5 Recruiting, Examining, and Placement Records” and “OPM/GOVT–6 Personnel Research and Test Validation Records”, or any successor materials thereto, require updating or revision to implement the purposes of this Act.

(B) ISSUANCE OF UPDATES OR REVISIONS; NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—If the Director, after the evaluation under subparagraph (A), finds that any updates or revisions to the SORNs identified in that subparagraph are necessary and appropriate to support implementation of this Act, the Director shall promptly—

- (i) issue the updates or revisions; and
- (ii) notify the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Congress is charged with overseeing the executive branch. This includes overseeing the general management and operations of government agencies.

For the success of our government's missions and Federal programs, we must have a competent and skilled workforce to deliver services to the American people, defend our Nation, and execute the laws passed by Congress. However, agencies lack the tools to identify and hire the best candidates to fill these positions.

The problem is that hiring for the Federal civil service has over-relied on the paper credentials and self-administered job proficiency assessments of candidates. The reintroduced Chance to Compete Act of 2023 ensures agencies use objective, skills-based assessments to evaluate job candidates.

The private sector already uses such structured interviews, knowledge tests, and writing samples for the hiring process. It is time for the Federal Government to do so as well.

Agencies should be able to hire professionals that can do the work, and there are many ways to build the right kind of professional expertise. H.R. 159 represents one of those rare bipartisan legislative reforms that targets a specific problem, implements tested solutions, and reflects private-sector best practices.

The bill codifies and improves upon the policy initiatives begun in the Trump administration and which the Biden administration is continuing to implement.

I thank the chairwoman of the Committee on Education and Workforce, Dr. VIRGINIA FOXX, who is also a senior member of the House Oversight Committee, and Congressman GERRY CON-

NOLLY for working quickly to ready this bipartisan bill.

I also thank Representative RO KHANNA for, again, supporting this bill that will help us modernize our government.

I hope that our Senate colleagues can swiftly advance this important legislation so that it can be signed into law this year.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 159, the Chance to Compete Act.

The bipartisan Chance to Compete Act was introduced by Representative FOXX, who I see is here with us, and Representative CONNOLLY. I thank them both for their hard work on it.

The bill aims to make evaluations more useful in assessing the skills of candidates for Federal positions and to alleviate inefficiencies that have long hampered the hiring process.

The bill turns away from current reliance on self-assessment and attainment of educational degrees to determine candidate qualifications in the hiring process. Instead, subject matter experts and agencies would design assessments that test specific knowledge for a position for which the agency is hiring.

This overhaul would better match qualified applicants with positions and expand opportunities to candidates with more diverse professional and educational backgrounds.

The Chance to Compete Act aligns with the Office of Personnel Management's guidance of last May to facilitate an executive order to modernize the process of hiring Federal job candidates.

Establishing hiring methods that are more skills-based will improve agency managers' ability to hire people who possess the knowledge and experience to do the job and to hire from a wider array of qualified applicants.

The bill also directs OPM to create an online platform for sharing candidate assessments between agencies and maintain a portal for hiring managers to find candidates who have already demonstrated their qualifications for certain positions but were not yet hired.

Under this legislation, agencies may assemble talent teams to support this assessment of candidates in the hiring process. The OPM Director would be required to submit annual progress reports to Congress on use of the new assessments. After 5 years, the GAO would conduct a study of the implementation of the Federal job assessment reforms and their impacts on the hiring process.

This bill streamlines the hiring process for agencies and will shorten the time it takes to bring new, well-qualified employees on board.

I thank Dr. FOXX for her leadership in introducing it. The bill is the result

of constructive collaboration by several members of our committee from both sides of the aisle, including Mr. CONNOLLY.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans and Democrats can agree that every hard-working, taxpaying American deserves a Federal Government that is built upon a solid foundation that breathes efficiency and is peopled by those with appropriate skills, not necessarily degrees.

To achieve that end, we must eliminate the bureaucratic snares that have hamstrung the Federal hiring process over the course of decades, and fast.

In its current state, this dilapidated and archaic hiring process serves as a deterrent to attracting qualified and high-quality candidates. The simple truth is that it seriously undermines the Federal workforce's ability to serve the American people in both a proper and efficient manner.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that something must be done to turn the tide. That is precisely why I have introduced the Chance to Compete Act of 2023 alongside Representative GERRY CONNOLLY, Oversight and Accountability Committee Chairman JAMES COMER, and Representative RO KHANNA.

This legislation builds upon a solid record of bipartisan collaboration and proven success in codifying key skills-based hiring reforms.

More specifically, under this legislation, Federal agencies will be able better to distinguish practical performers in a field of candidates and focus on hiring individuals who can perform at the highest level in the jobs they assume within the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this much-needed bipartisan legislation.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to support passage of this bipartisan legislation. It is an auspicious way for us to begin on the Oversight Committee. I salute the chairman for his wisdom in bringing this forward, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense bill aimed at hiring applicants for Federal positions based on whether they have the relevant skills to do the job. The American people deserve nothing less from their Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 159, the Chance to Compete Act of 2023, as amended, that implements

merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system and would replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring.

It is critically important that we make skills- and competency-based hiring, the fundamental method of assessment for hiring in the competitive civil service.

No person, with the requisite skill, training, and competency should be prevented from securing a job because of a requirement that they hold a higher education degree.

As modern industry and technology evolve, so too do the pathways to professional achievement.

Recently, apprenticeship programs are an increasingly viable alternative to a traditional degree as they give students new opportunities to gain both knowledge of the subject matter and a skill set tailored specifically to their chosen profession.

These programs allow them to pursue jobs which align with their passions and strengths while still providing the students with important recognition in the form of a certificate which demonstrates their expertise in the field.

Undeniably, these skills focused models have opened doors for many who have been marginalized economically—giving them access to well-deserved dignity and success within their communities.

It is past time that the competitive civil service do away with degree requirements and make skills- and competency-based hiring the fundamental method of assessment.

This change will expand the pipeline of candidates who can access the competitive civil service jobs.

I have long been a champion of education and workforce development.

Several institutions in my district, including Houston Independent School District, Lone Star College, and Houston Community College have very successful trade and skills and based training programs.

These programs cover the gamut from culinary arts to auto-mechanic programs, to certificate programs for estheticians.

In 2017, Hurricane Harvey, killed 67 people, flooded 154,000 homes and 500,000 vehicles, and inflicted \$125 billion in damage, primarily from catastrophic rainfall—triggering the worst flooding in the Houston metropolitan area history.

In the aftermath, I advocated for funding for Houston Community College for a water disaster resilience training, certification and onboarding of skills, technologies, and training for first responders and the public to better prepare for the unique challenges posed by massive urban flood events.

This and other programs offer the opportunity to gain practical and in-demand skills needed to build a successful career in today's economy.

The Chance to Compete Act of 2023 will open new pathways for those without a degree, and allow them to access job roles in the competitive civil service that may have otherwise been inaccessible which gives them the opportunity to advance their lives and careers.

Furthermore, access to jobs in the competitive civil service based on skill and competency will grant people an unprecedented level of access to the dignity of work that fulfills a great need in today's society.

We must remain committed to recognizing the power and potential of non-degree based

assessments for access to new employment paths, especially in light of today's changing job market.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, the civil service is the lifeblood of our government and provides taxpayers, small businesses, and vulnerable populations vital resources and services throughout the country.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Operations for the past 4 years, I held a series of hearings focused on revitalizing and rejuvenating the federal workforce.

What we found is that proposals like Chance to Compete should exist in a constellation of improvements to federal workforce recruitment that includes better pay, reforming federal internships to improve the intern to employee pipeline, and remaining competitive with the private sector in areas such as hybrid work—all of which are the subjects of legislation produced by the Government Operations Subcommittee last Congress (FAIR Act, Next Gen Feds Act, and Telework and Metrics Cost Savings Act).

I am proud to be the lead-cosponsor of the Chance to Compete Act, which leverages skill assessments to build a more competitive, equitable, and inclusive workforce.

This bill has bipartisan support and through demonstration projects at agencies proven empirical success.

In short, this legislation allows an agency that has an open position to develop a skills-based assessment to evaluate candidates in a way that goes above and beyond the traditional review of past work and education experience.

Furthermore, this bill:

Enables agencies to share their assessment findings with other agencies, streamlining the overall hiring process and ensuring competitive candidates do not fall between the cracks if they have already proven their ability to perform.

And deploys talent teams at agencies to ensure the development and implementation of the goals of this bill.

I thank Representative VIRGINIA FOXX, for her hard work and leadership on this bill as well as the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), Partnership for Public Service (PPS), the Senior Executives Association (SEA), Professional Managers Association (PMA), and others who have endorsed this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 159, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT INFORMATION DATABASE ACT OF 2023

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 300) to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of settlement agreements, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 300

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Settlement Agreement Information Database Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. INFORMATION REGARDING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS.—Chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§307. Information regarding settlement agreements
“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘local government’ has the meaning given that term in section 6501 of title 31.

“(2) ORDER TYPE.—The term ‘order type’ means the type of action or instrument used to settle a civil or criminal judicial action.

“(3) SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—The term ‘settlement agreement’ means a settlement agreement (including a consent decree) that—

“(A) is entered into by an Executive agency; and

“(B) relates to an alleged violation of Federal civil or criminal law.

“(4) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, each territory or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

(b) SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT INFORMATION DATABASE.—

“(1) EXECUTIVE AGENCY REQUIREMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the head of each Executive agency shall, in accordance with guidance issued pursuant to paragraph (2), submit the following information to the database established under paragraph (3):

“(i) A list of each settlement agreement, in a categorized and searchable format, entered into by the Executive agency, as a party to a lawsuit, which shall include, for each settlement agreement—

“(I) the order type of the settlement agreement;

“(II) the date on which the parties entered into the settlement agreement;

“(III) a list of specific violations that specify the basis for the action taken, with a description of the claims each party settled under the settlement agreement;

“(IV) the amount of attorneys’ fees and other litigation costs awarded, if any, including a description of the statutory basis for such an award;

“(V) the amount each party settling a claim under the settlement agreement is obligated to pay under the settlement agreement;

“(VI) the total amount the settling parties are obligated to pay under the settlement agreement;

“(VII) the amount, if any, the settling party is obligated to pay that is expressly specified under the settlement agreement as a civil or criminal penalty or fine;

“(VIII) any payment made under the settlement agreement, including a description of any payment made to the Federal Government;

“(IX) the projected duration of the settlement agreement, if available;

“(X) a list of State or local governments that may be directly affected by the terms of the settlement agreement;

“(XI) a brief description of any economic data and methodology used to justify the terms of the settlement agreement;

“(XII) any modification to the settlement agreement, when applicable;

“(XIII) notice and comments, when applicable; and

“(XIV) whether the settlement agreement is still under judicial enforcement and any period of time by which the parties agreed to have certain conditions met.

“(i) A copy of each—

“(I) settlement agreement entered into by the Executive agency; and

“(II) statement issued under paragraph (4).

“(B) NONDISCLOSURE.—The requirement to submit information or a copy of a settlement agreement under paragraph (A) shall not apply to the extent the information or copy (or portion thereof)—

“(i) is subject to a confidentiality provision that prohibits disclosure of the information or copy (or portion thereof); and

“(ii) would not be disclosed under section 552, if the Executive agency provides a citation to the applicable exemption.

“(C) CLARIFICATION OF RESPONSIBLE AGENCY.—In a case in which an Executive agency is acting at the request or on behalf of another Executive agency (referred to as the originating agency), the originating agency is responsible for submitting information under subparagraph (A).

“(2) GUIDANCE.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue guidance for Executive agencies to implement paragraph (1). Such guidance shall include the following:

“(A) Specific dates by which submissions must be made, not less than twice a year.

“(B) Data standards, including common data elements and a common, nonproprietary, searchable, machine-readable, platform independent format.

“(C) A requirement that the information and documents required under paragraph (1) are publicly available for a period starting on the date of the settlement through not less than 5 years after the termination of the settlement agreement.

“(3) ESTABLISHMENT OF DATABASE.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, or the head of an Executive agency designated by the Director, shall establish and maintain a public, searchable, downloadable database for Executive agencies to directly upload and submit the information and documents required under paragraph (1) for immediate publication online.

“(4) STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY.—If the head of an Executive agency determines that a confidentiality provision in a settlement agreement, or the sealing of a settlement agreement, is required to protect the public interest of the United States, the head of the Executive agency may except the settlement agreement from the requirement in paragraph (1) and shall issue a written public statement stating why such action is required to protect the public interest of the United States, which shall explain—

“(A) what interests confidentiality protects; and

“(B) why the interests protected by confidentiality outweigh the public's interest in knowing about the conduct of the Federal Government and the expenditure of Federal resources.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“307. Information regarding settlement agreements.”.

(c) DEADLINE TO ESTABLISH DATABASE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the

Office of Management and Budget shall issue guidance required by section 307(b)(2) of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), and establish the settlement agreement information database required by section 307(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(d) DEADLINE FOR FIRST SUBMISSION.—Not later than 90 days after the Director issues guidance under section 307(b)(2) of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), the head of each Executive agency (as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code) shall begin submitting information to the database established under such section 307.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

Section 552(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (E) as subparagraphs (C) through (F), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

“(B) each settlement agreement (as defined in section 307) entered into by an Executive agency, with redactions for information that the agency may withhold under paragraph (8) and subsections (b) and (c) of this section;”.

SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to require the disclosure of information or records that any agency may properly withhold from public disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Freedom of Information Act”).

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.

This Act shall be effective 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply—

(1) with respect to any settlement agreement (as such term is defined in section 307 of title 5, United States Code, as added by section 2), entered into on or after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) to the extent practicable, any such settlement agreement (as such term is defined in section 307 of title 5, United States Code, as added by section 2) that remains in effect on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 300, the Settlement Agreement Information Database Act.

Transparency and public participation are vital to ensure the public's continued trust in our government. Federal agencies frequently use settlement agreements to resolve litigation

without going through lengthy public trials. However, it is impossible for Congress and the public to determine the impact these settlement agreements have on State and local governments and private-sector entities because they must continue to follow the agency requirements these agreements mandate.

Such secret negotiations and agreements essentially prevent the public from participating in important policy decisions.

These Federal settlements agreements impose a tremendous burden. They are often difficult to see and hard to understand.

Further, State and local governments, industry stakeholders, and taxpayers can be directly affected by the settlements for years, yet they can't provide input. This legislation seeks to correct that problem.

The Settlement Agreement Information Database Act, or SAID Act, requires Federal agencies to submit information regarding consent decrees and settlement agreements to a public electronic database.

This public resource, to be overseen by the Office of Management and Budget, will include dates, payments, attorney's fees awards, and a list of State and local governments and other entities impacted by each settlement.

Currently, agencies release information about settlements at their discretion and will only publicize the facts that reflect favorably upon the agency. Furthermore, the terms of the settlement agreements are often deemed confidential.

Under the requirements of the SAID Act, if an agency believes that information regarding an agreement should remain confidential, the agency head must publish an explanation of why it is confidential. This will increase transparency and shine a much-needed light on agency settlement agreements.

I thank my Committee on Oversight and Accountability colleagues GARY PALMER and GERRY CONNOLLY for preparing this important legislation for consideration today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this commonsense legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I do indeed support this significant, commonsense, and bipartisan legislation. I thank the chairman again, and I thank Representatives PALMER and CONNOLLY for their hard work on it.

The Settlement Agreement Information Database Act will create a database of settlement agreements entered into by Federal agencies relating to alleged violations of Federal civil or criminal law. The OMB will manage the database and set deadlines for submission.

The heads of executive agencies will be required to submit details about the

types of settlement agreements they have entered into, the parties who are actually involved in them, the specific violations, and the dates upon which such settlement agreements were made. All information about the settlement agreements would remain public until 5 years after they terminate.

The information in the agreements would remain subject to the Freedom of Information Act, but if the head of the agency decided to keep an entire agreement confidential, he or she would be required to provide a specific explanation of that action.

□ 1745

This legislation will substantially improve the transparency surrounding so many settlement agreements, which in the past have been very difficult for the public to access or even to find. Transparency is, of course, central to the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER).

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 300, the Settlement Agreement Information Database Act.

The principle of open government is a hallmark of our system of governing, dating as far back as the Enlightenment.

The open government doctrine maintains that citizens have a right to access the Federal Government's records and operations to facilitate oversight of the public business.

Open government principles are key to fulfilling the promise of a nation ruled by the consent of the governed.

Open government requires transparency and public participation, which are vital to ensure the public's continued trust in our government.

Increasingly, however, Federal agencies have entered into legally binding settlement agreements to resolve litigation without going through lengthy public trials that often provide the transparency.

Unfortunately, agencies generally release limited information about these settlements. When information is published, it is usually in the form of a press release focused more on self-promoting than informing.

Furthermore, Federal agencies can unilaterally deem the terms of a settlement agreement confidential with no explanation.

Such secret negotiations and agreements prevent the public from participating in important policy decisions made on their behalf.

As a result, it is impossible for Congress and the public to determine the comprehensive impact of these settlement agreements on State and local governments, private sector entities, and taxpayers.

These parties are often barred from providing input but must continue to follow the mandated requirements which often remain in effect for decades.

Today, I am pleased to join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle as we take this first step to correct this problem.

The Settlement Agreement Information Database Act, or the SAID Act, will increase the transparency of the Federal Government and shine a much-needed light on settlement agreements.

The bill requires Federal agencies to submit information regarding settlement agreements to a public, electronic database.

This public resource, to be overseen by the Office of Management and Budget, would include dates, payments, attorney's fees awards, and a list of States, municipalities, and other entities impacted by these settlements.

Under the requirements of the SAID Act, if the agency believes that the information regarding an agreement should remain confidential, the agency head must publish an explanation of why it is confidential.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for supporting this bipartisan legislation. They include Chairman COMER, Ranking Member RASKIN, Representatives AMI BERA, SCOTT PETERS, ANDY BARR, and FRENCH HILL.

I especially thank my colleague across the aisle, Representative GERRY CONNOLLY, for his leadership in introducing this bill jointly with me.

In a time when Americans feel divided, it is important to come together to support commonsense, good government legislation.

I am happy we could, once again, expedite its consideration in the House, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this commonsense legislation.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), my colleague.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me express my appreciation to the members of this committee, GERRY CONNOLLY, and then to look at my friend, Mr. RASKIN, I am delighted to be on the floor with him and delighted to be on the floor with the manager of this legislation as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 300, the Settlement Agreement Information Database Act of 2023, which would help increase the transparency of executive agencies to the public and allow the public to hold the government accountable.

This is the people's House. We were just discussing, even today, the enormity of the work that we have done in the powerful infrastructure bill, the CHIPS bill, and the Inflation Reduction Act. But if there are aspects of a bill that should be directed to the people, if there is information that lets them have a fullness of what has happened on behalf of the American people—what have we accomplished?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 300 would make public certain information included in settlement agreements entered into by executive agencies by establishing a public database for the reporting of agreements that cover alleged violation of civil or criminal law.

The information that will be disclosed to the public include: what type of settlement it is, any costs of money involved in the settlement agreement, what State and local governments are affected by the settlements, and the duration and modifications of such.

This ties into my point earlier of knowing information about what is going on in the government in terms of our legislation. This specifically provides the information to families and businesses and communities if there has been a settlement on a matter that they are interested in.

True transparency is for the government to be known by American citizens on everything we do, and one of the most hidden is the idea of settlements of cases. Maybe it has impacted a city, an individual, a family, a school, and it is important to know what these agreements are.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have this legislation in the name of transparency, and I rise to support H.R. 300, and I ask my colleagues to support it enthusiastically as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 300, the 'Settlement Agreement Information Database Act of 2023,' which would help increase transparency of executive agencies to the public and allow the people to hold the government accountable.

H.R. 300 would make public certain information included in settlement agreements entered into by Executive agencies by establishing a public database for the reporting of agreements that cover alleged violation of Federal civil or criminal law.

The information that will be disclosed to the public include the following: what the type of settlement agreement it is, who is involved, any costs or money involved in the settlement agreement, what state and local governments are affected by the settlement agreements, the duration and modifications of the settlement agreement and any justifications for the settlement agreement.

This bill also allows for confidentiality in situations where the interests of the confidentiality provision would protect public interest.

An information database is important in the oversight of executive agencies, to ensure they are properly carrying out and enforcing laws we have passed.

As a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, this information would be vital to the security of the country.

This information is important in knowing what secret deals are being made that relate to the violation of federal civil or criminal law, and to whom and where settlement payments are being sent.

H.R. 300 is a crucial step in protecting democracy.

By making settlement agreements public information, the public will feel more confident that there are no secret deals to cover bad behavior by corrupt government officials.

Additionally, this act serves as a deterrent for potential bad behavior in any government agency because the information database would ensure that bad behavior could not be hidden.

We work in an office of public trust, and the best way to ensure that the people trust us and listen to us, is to be as transparent as possible in any actions we take.

H.R. 300 helps the people to keep the government and check and hold us accountable.

By becoming transparent in how settlements are paid, taxpayers can be confident in how their money is being spent and what ways settlement agreements are impacting fiscal health.

It is important that we know the financial burden these settlements have on state and local governments.

The people deserve to be informed on where their money is being put and how that affects their communities and public services.

This way, when the people feel violated or that a community issue is not addressed, they can better advocate for themselves and participate in the democratic process.

As elected officials, our job is to make sure we are helping our constituents and advocating for their issues.

If we limit information, we are stopping our citizens from getting the help they need from us or understanding who they should hold accountable for a problem.

That would be a detriment to democracy.

H.R. 300 is necessary because it is an important step in creating government transparency which is crucial to the democratic process.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I would say, in closing, that I was moved by what Mr. PALMER had to say, that democracy is based on consent, and consent is based on access, but there is no access if you don't have transparency.

I think about something that James Madison said: "And a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power that knowledge gives." So people need to have knowledge of everything that our government is doing. We don't want government entities entering into secret, sweetheart settlements with different litigants. It has got to be open to the whole public.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him and I thank the chairman for bringing this forward, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I am happy we could expedite the Settlement Agreement Information Database Act's consideration today.

This Chamber has passed the SAID Act with broad support three separate times, in the 115th, 116th, and 117th Congresses. It is time the Senate acted on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this necessary, bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Settlement Agreement Information Database Act, which I'm co-leading with my colleague from Alabama, Mr. PALMER.

This bipartisan legislation was considered under suspension and agreed to in the House of Representatives by a voice vote in previous Congresses.

I am glad to note that the first couple of bills from the Oversight and Accountability Committee coming to the Floor in the 118th Congress are bipartisan measures.

That continues the tradition from the 117th Congress, when the first bill on the Floor from the Oversight Committee was the FedRAMP Authorization Act (117th), a bipartisan bill I wrote, co-led, and passed with now-Chairman JAMES COMER.

Federal settlement agreements, negotiated behind closed doors, cannot continue to be shrouded in secrecy when they directly affect States, municipalities, and local stakeholders.

The SAID Act brings these binding agreements into the light by requiring federal agencies to publicly publish their documents or provide the public with written justification to keep the records confidential.

Details of the settlement agreements would remain public until 5 years after the termination of the agreements.

Increased transparency and better intergovernmental collaboration help form the foundation of good government, and this bill is one more tool to ensure government accountability.

I am a former local government official who served on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for 14 years, including 5 years as Chairman.

I currently chair the Congressional Caucus on Former Local Elected Officials, and I have authorized legislation, the Restore the Partnership Act, which would revive the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

I am committed to enhancing the intergovernmental partnership, which often entails requiring the federal government to be more transparent and proactive in its relationship with local governments.

When it comes to settlement agreements that have the potential of tying the hands of local governments on everything from stormwater management to public education the default should be transparency.

I welcome this bipartisan legislation, urge my colleagues to support it, and ask the Senate to act on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 300, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 53 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WITTMAN) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 159; and

H.R. 300; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

CHANCE TO COMPETE ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 159) to implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 422, nays 2, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 32]

YEAS—422

Adams	Bost	Cherfilus-
Aderholt	Bowman	McCormick
Aguilar	Boyle (PA)	Cicilline
Alford	Brecheen	Ciscomani
Allen	Brown	Clark (MA)
Allred	Brownley	Clarke (NY)
Amodei	Buck	Cleaver
Armstrong	Bucshon	Cline
Arrington	Budzinski	Cloud
Auchincloss	Burchett	Clyburn
Babin	Burgess	Clyde
Bacon	Burlison	Cohen
Baird	Bush	Cole
Balderson	Calvert	Collins
Banks	Cammack	Comer
Barr	Caraveo	Connolly
Barragán	Carbajal	Correa
Bean (FL)	Cárdenas	Costa
Beatty	Carey	Courtney
Bentz	Carl	Craig
Bera	Carson	Crane
Bergman	Carter (GA)	Crawford
Beyer	Carter (LA)	Crenshaw
Bice	Carter (TX)	Crockett
Biggs	Cartwright	Crow
Billakis	Casar	Cuellar
Bishop (GA)	Case	Curtis
Bishop (NC)	Casten	D'Esposito
Blumenauer	Castor (FL)	Dauids (KS)
Blunt	Castro (TX)	Davidson
Rochester	Chavez-DeRemer	Davis (IL)
Boebert		

Davis (NC)	Jayapal	Nickel	Torres (CA)	Veasey	Westerman	Davidson	Jackson (NC)	Napolitano
De La Cruz	Jeffries	Norcross	Torres (NY)	Velázquez	Weston	Davidson	Jackson (TX)	Neal
Dean (PA)	Johnson (GA)	Norman	Trahan	Wagner	Wild	Davis (IL)	Jackson Lee	Neguse
DeGette	Johnson (LA)	Nunn (IA)	Trone	Walberg	Williams (GA)	Davis (NC)	Jacobs	Nehls
DeLauro	Johnson (OH)	Obernolte	Turner	Waltz	Williams (NY)	De La Cruz	James	Newhouse
DelBene	Johnson (SD)	Ocasio-Cortez	Underwood	Wasserman	Williams (TX)	Dean (PA)	Jayapal	Nickel
Deluzio	Jordan	Ogles	Valadao	Schultz	Wilson (FL)	DeGette	Jeffries	Norcross
DeSaulnier	Joyce (OH)	Omar	Van Drew	Waters	Wilson (SC)	DeLauro	Johnson (GA)	Norman
DesJarlais	Joyce (PA)	Owens	Van Duyne	Watson Coleman	Wittman	DelBene	Johnson (LA)	Nunn (IA)
Diaz-Balart	Kamlager-Dove	Pallone	Van Orden	Weber (TX)	Womack	Deluzio	Johnson (OH)	Obernolte
Dingell	Kaptur	Palmer	Vargas	Webster (FL)	Yakym	DeSaulnier	Johnson (SD)	Ocasio-Cortez
Doggett	Kean (NJ)	Panetta	Vasquez	Wenstrup	Zinke	DesJarlais	Jordan	Ogles
Donalds	Keating	Pappas				Diaz-Balart	Joyce (OH)	Omar
Duarte	Kelly (IL)	Pascarell				Dingell	Joyce (PA)	Owens
Duncan	Kelly (MS)	Payne				Doggett	Kamlager-Dove	Pallone
Dunn (FL)	Kelly (PA)	Pelosi				Donalds	Kaptur	Palmer
Edwards	Khanna	Peltola				Duarte	Kean (NJ)	Panetta
Ellzey	Kiggans (VA)	Pence	Balint	Eshoo	Schneider	Duncan	Keating	Pappas
Emmer	Kildee	Perez	Bonamici	García (IL)	Steube	Dunn (FL)	Kelly (IL)	Pascarell
Escobar	Kiley	Perry	Buchanan	Granger		Edwards	Kelly (MS)	Payne
Espallat	Kilmer	Peters	Chu	Mullin		Ellzey	Kelly (PA)	Pelosi
Estes	Kim (CA)	Pettersen				Emmer	Khanna	Peltola
Evans	Kim (NJ)	Pfuger				Escobar	Kiggans (VA)	Pence
Ezell	Krishnamoorthi	Phillips				Espallat	Kildee	Perez
Fallon	Kuster	Pingree				Estes	Kiley	Perry
Feenstra	Kustoff	Pocan				Evans	Kilmer	Peters
Ferguson	LaHood	Porter				Ezell	Kim (CA)	Pettersen
Finstad	LaLota	Posey				Fallon	Kim (NJ)	Pfuger
Fischbach	LaMalfa	Pressley				Feenstra	Krishnamoorthi	Phillips
Fitzgerald	Lamborn	Quigley				Ferguson	Kuster	Pingree
Fitzpatrick	Landsman	Ramirez				Finstad	Kustoff	Pocan
Fleischmann	Langworthy	Raskin				Fischbach	LaHood	Porter
Fletcher	Larsen (WA)	Reschenthaler				Fitzgerald	LaLota	Posey
Flood	Larson (CT)	Rodgers (WA)				Fitzpatrick	LaMalfa	Pressley
Foster	Latta	Rogers (AL)				Fleischmann	Lamborn	Quigley
Foushee	LaTurner	Rogers (KY)				Fletcher	Landsman	Ramirez
Fox	Lawler	Rose				Flood	Langworthy	Raskin
Frankel, Lois	Lee (CA)	Ross				Foster	Larsen (WA)	Reschenthaler
Franklin, C.	Lee (FL)	Rouzer				Foushee	Larson (CT)	Rodgers (WA)
Scott	Lee (NV)	Roy				Fox	Latta	Rogers (AL)
Frost	Lee (PA)	Ruiz				Frankel, Lois	LaTurner	Rogers (KY)
Fry	Leger Fernandez	Ruppersberger				Franklin, C.	Lawler	Rose
Fulcher	Lesko	Rutherford				Scott	Lee (CA)	Rosendale
Gaetz	Letlow	Ryan				Frost	Lee (FL)	Ross
Gallagher	Levin	Salazar				Fry	Lee (NV)	Rouzer
Gallego	Lieu	Salinas				Fulcher	Lee (PA)	Roy
Garamendi	Lofgren	Sánchez				Gaetz	Leger Fernandez	Ruiz
Garbarino	Loudermilk	Santos				Gallagher	Lesko	Ruppersberger
Garcia (TX)	Lucas	Sarbanes				Gallego	Letlow	Rutherford
Garcia, Mike	Luetkemeyer	Scalise				Garamendi	Levin	Ryan
Garcia, Robert	Luna	Scanlon				Garbarino	Lieu	Salazar
Gimenez	Luttrell	Schakowsky				Garcia (TX)	Lofgren	Salinas
Golden (ME)	Lynch	Schiff				Garcia, Mike	Loudermilk	Sánchez
Goldman (NY)	Mace	Scholten				Garcia, Robert	Lucas	Santos
Gomez	Magaziner	Schrier				Gimenez	Luetkemeyer	Sarbanes
Gonzales, Tony	Malliotakis	Schweikert				Golden (ME)	Luna	Scalise
Gonzalez, Vicente	Mann	Scott (VA)				Goldman (NY)	Luttrell	Scanlon
Good (VA)	Manning	Scott, Austin				Gomez	Lynch	Schakowsky
Gooden (TX)	Mast	Scott, David				Gonzales, Tony	Mace	Schiff
Gosar	Matsui	Self				Gonzalez, Vicente	Magaziner	Scholten
Gottheimer	McBath	Sessions				Good (VA)	Malliotakis	Schrier
Graves (LA)	McCarthy	Sewell				Gooden (TX)	Mann	Schweikert
Graves (MO)	McCaul	Sherman				Gosar	Manning	Scott (VA)
Green (TN)	McClain	Sherrill				Gottheimer	Massie	Scott, Austin
Green (TX)	McClintock	Simpson				Granger	Mast	Scott, David
Greene (GA)	McCollum	Slotkin				Graves (LA)	Matsui	Self
Griffith	McCormick	Smith (MO)				Graves (MO)	McBath	Sessions
Grijalva	McGarvey	Smith (NE)				Green (TN)	McCarthy	Sewell
Grothman	McGovern	Smith (NJ)				Green (TX)	McCaul	Sherman
Guest	McHenry	Smith (WA)				Greene (GA)	McClain	Sherrill
Guthrie	Meeks	Smucker				Griffith	McClintock	Simpson
Hageman	Menendez	Sorensen				Grijalva	McCollum	Slotkin
Harder (CA)	Meng	Soto				Grothman	McCormick	Smith (MO)
Harris	Meuser	Spanberger				Guest	McGarvey	Smith (NE)
Harshbarger	Mfume	Spartz				Guthrie	McGovern	Smith (NJ)
Hayes	Miller (IL)	Stansbury				Hageman	McHenry	Smith (WA)
Higgins (LA)	Miller (OH)	Stanton				Harder (CA)	Meeks	Smucker
Higgins (NY)	Miller (WV)	Staubert				Harris	Menendez	Sorensen
Hill	Miller-Meeks	Steel				Harshbarger	Meng	Soto
Himes	Mills	Stefanik				Hayes	Meuser	Spanberger
Hinson	Molinaro	Steil				Hern	Mfume	Spartz
Horsford	Moolenaar	Stevens				Higgins (LA)	Miller (IL)	Stansbury
Houchin	Mooney	Stewart				Higgins (NY)	Miller (OH)	Stanton
Houlahan	Moore (AL)	Strickland				Hill	Miller (WV)	Staubert
Hoyer	Moore (UT)	Strong				Himes	Miller-Meeks	Steel
Hoyle (OR)	Moore (WI)	Swalwell				Hinson	Mills	Stefanik
Hudson	Moran	Sykes				Horsford	Molinaro	Steil
Huffman	Morelle	Takano				Houchin	Moolenaar	Stevens
Huizenga	Moskowitz	Tenney				Houlahan	Mooney	Stewart
Hunt	Moulton	Thanedar				Hoyer	Moore (AL)	Strickland
Issa	Mrvan	Thompson (CA)				Hoyle (OR)	Moore (UT)	Strong
Ivey	Murphy	Thompson (MS)				Hudson	Moore (WI)	Swalwell
Jackson (IL)	Nadler	Thompson (PA)				Huffman	Moran	Sykes
Jackson (NC)	Nadler	Tiffany				Huizenga	Morelle	Takano
Jackson (TX)	Napolitano	Timmons				Hunt	Moskowitz	Tenney
Jackson Lee	Neal	Titus				Issa	Moulton	Thanedar
Jacobs	Neguse	Tlaib				Ivey	Mrvan	Thompson (CA)
James	Nehls	Tokuda				Jackson (IL)	Murphy	Thompson (MS)
	Newhouse	Tonko					Nadler	Thompson (PA)

NAYS—2

NOT VOTING—10

□ 1852

Ms. ADAMS changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT INFORMATION DATABASE ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 300) to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of settlement agreements, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 425, nays 0, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 33]

YEAS—425

Adams	Boebert	Castro (TX)
Aderholt	Bost	Chavez-DeRemer
Aguilar	Bowman	Cherfilus-
Alford	Boyle (PA)	McCormick
Allen	Brecheen	Cicilline
Allred	Brown	Ciscomani
Amodei	Brownley	Clark (MA)
Armstrong	Buck	Clarke (NY)
Arrington	Bucshon	Cleaver
Arrington	Budzinski	Cline
Babin	Burchett	Cloud
Bacon	Burgess	Clyburn
Baird	Burlison	Clyde
Balderson	Bush	Cohen
Banks	Calvert	Cole
Barr	Cammack	Collins
Barragán	Caraveo	Comer
Bean (FL)	Carbajal	Connolly
Beatty	Cárdenas	Correa
Bentz	Carey	Costa
Bera	Carl	Courtney
Bergman	Carson	Craig
Beyer	Carter (GA)	Crane
Bice	Carter (LA)	Crawford
Biggs	Carter (TX)	Crenshaw
Bilirakis	Cartwright	Crockett
Bishop (GA)	Casar	Crow
Bishop (NC)	Case	Cuellar
Blumenauer	Casten	Curtis
Blunt Rochester	Castor (FL)	D'Esposito

Tiffany	Van Duyne	Webster (FL)
Timmons	Van Orden	Wenstrup
Titus	Vargas	Westerman
Tlaib	Vasquez	Wexton
Tokuda	Veasey	Wild
Tonko	Velázquez	Williams (GA)
Torres (CA)	Wagner	Williams (NY)
Torres (NY)	Walberg	Williams (TX)
Trahan	Waltz	Wilson (FL)
Trone	Wasserman	Wilson (SC)
Turner	Schultz	Wittman
Underwood	Waters	Womack
Valadao	Watson Coleman	Yakym
Van Drew	Weber (TX)	Zinke

NOT VOTING—

Balint	Chu	Mullin
Bonamici	Eshoo	Schneider
Buchanan	Garcia (IL)	Steube

□ 1904

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I regret to inform you that I was unable to attend today's legislative session. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 32 and "yea" on rollcall No. 33.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALFORD). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 25

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 25.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is accepted.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 106.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. HINSON) as cosponsor of H.R. 106. She was inadvertently added through a clerical error and did not intend to cosponsor the legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
CECIL ABARR

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of

Cecil Abarr, a beloved member of Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church, who recently passed away at the age of 93.

Cecil was born in Iowa in 1929, and upon his graduation from high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II. After his service, he was awarded the World War II Victory Medal.

Cecil was also a leader in the private sector, locating to Savannah to become the president of the Branigar Corporation. In this position, he led the development of large real estate projects, which have now been flourishing for decades.

Despite all titles and awards he received throughout his life, he is best known as a husband to his wife, Lou, a father to his five children, a grandfather to 16, and great-grandfather to 21.

I pass on my sincerest condolences to his family and friends. He will be dearly missed.

SMOKING IN THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss smoking in the House of Representatives.

In yet another self-serving move, the Republicans have allowed smoking in House offices. It violates local and Federal law and threatens public health.

In the last few decades, secondhand smoke has killed more than 2.5 million Americans. It causes heart disease, lung cancer, and strokes, and it is extremely dangerous to children.

Local and Federal laws ban smoking in public and Federal buildings, and many studies have shown that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.

It is a life-threatening decision that proves Republicans do not care about the health and safety of Americans. They write the laws but don't follow them.

□ 1915

SCHOOL CHOICE CHARTER SCHOOL

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the benefits of school choice cannot be overstated. On average, students participating in school choice programs perform better academically and see higher college admission rates.

These factors make school choice a no-brainer, and charter schools serve as a foundational cornerstone of the educational freedom school choice delivers. Yet, even as many traditional government-run schools do not meet the needs of students, President Biden is erecting unreasonable barriers for

new charter schools and arbitrary funding restrictions. This is an abject attempt to expand teachers unions' monopoly over K-12 education.

A great education is a gateway to success, but Democrats are working hard to lock that gate and hide the key. Students deserve the opportunity to find a learning environment that suits them. That begins by ending Democrats' anticharter school crusade.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LT.
COL. HAROLD BROWN

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the valorous life of Lieutenant Colonel Harold Brown of Catawba Island, Ohio, who recently took his final flight to the heavens.

Since sixth grade, Harold's dream was to be a pilot. By the age of 19, he made that dream a reality as a Tuskegee Airman.

Harold served as an exemplary officer in the U.S. Army Air Corps, completing dozens of combat missions during World War II. Once while on a mission, his plane was shot down, and Harold was taken as a prisoner of war.

This experience did not deter his service to our country. Harold served again during the brutal Korean War. Truly, he embodied the spirit of his Spit Fire legendary airmen.

Harold's devotion to his country extended beyond the battlefield. He worked to desegregate the military. He worked as a teacher to inspire new generations of students. His life was dedicated to service beyond self.

Today, America honors Harold for his service. We remember what an impact his life had, and our prayers are with his loved ones.

Truly, one human being can change the direction of the world for the better, and Harold Brown did that.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Religious Freedom Day, which was celebrated last week on January 16.

Religious Freedom Day commemorates the Virginia General Assembly's adoption of Thomas Jefferson's landmark Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom on January 16, 1786. The statute became the basis for the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and led to freedom of religion for all Americans.

We are blessed to live in a country where a person is able to practice whatever religion they so choose without fear of persecution from government.

The First Amendment protects freedom of religion, along with the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press. This assurance of freedom gives us all the opportunity to openly practice and speak our beliefs and allows me to speak on the House floor right now.

The United States is a place where all faiths can be peacefully practiced, free from fear of persecution. The very foundation of our Nation, a place of freedom and liberty for all, was conceived by individuals in search of religious freedom.

Mr. Speaker, the United States of America will always be a beacon of light in the world, and we will always protect our fundamental, unified commitment of religious freedom.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MARGARET MARIE PETERS

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to wish one of my constituents from my hometown of Anaheim, Ms. Margaret Marie Peters, a very happy 94th birthday.

Margaret was born in the year of the Great Crash. From an early age, she wanted to learn, and her grandmother taught her how to read and write. She graduated first in her high school class, and she was the first to graduate from high school in her family.

Later, Margaret married a decorated World War II marine. Together, they raised five daughters in Anaheim. In her forties, she attended college classes. It was something she always wanted to do. Later on, Margaret spent 29 years working for Disneyland.

Margaret will turn 94 on February 2, and she has witnessed many changes in this great country. Clearly, the United States today has come a long way since 1929.

Margaret, happy birthday to you and many more.

NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, God created all children with unique skills and talents. We should encourage flexibility in learning to allow each student's gifts to flourish so they can live the American Dream.

On this National School Choice Week, we must empower America's families to have a voice, enabling them to choose a learning environment that is just right for their children, one that will both challenge that student and encourage them to develop their God-given talents.

Sadly, our schoolchildren are facing years' worth of learning and development loss, which is why education freedom today is so important.

According to polling done by the American Federation for Children, 72 percent of voters polled support school choice, highlighting broad bipartisan support on this issue. A ZIP code should never determine a child's future.

As a member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, I am committed to advancing the cause of school choice this Congress. I call on my colleagues on both sides to join me and to do the same.

ON BEHALF OF FOOD INSECURE CHILDREN

(Ms. STEVENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of every American child who is going to bed tonight hungry. I rise on behalf of the food insecure child and the meal insecure child. Pandemic-era lunch programs have expired, and that number is now 10 million. That is more than the entire populations of New York City, Washington, D.C., and Detroit combined.

I was meeting with the school administrators of Farmington Hills, and they were telling me 40 percent of our children are food insecure. This is impacting Oakland County, Michigan.

We have a bill to address this, as we did last term in the Congress, the Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act. Let's get this passed. Let's work together.

My colleagues are talking about school choice. Let's make sure that when students go to school, they have lunch guaranteed.

OPPOSING NEW YORK'S CONGESTION PRICING TAX

(Mr. LAWLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to oppose New York State's disastrous congestion pricing tax, which is nothing more than a tax grab hurting middle-class and working-class families in my district, especially those first responders who are forced to commute into New York City by car. It would cost them an additional \$5,000 a year to commute to work, \$23 a day, just to get into Midtown Manhattan.

Rockland County, where I live, faces a \$40 million value gap. We pay \$40 million more in taxes to the MTA system than services we receive. We have no one-seat ride option from Rockland County, and express rail service has been cut. In Westchester, Putnam, and Dutchess Counties, commuters have received a 10 percent cut in express rail service.

Many folks choose not to take the subway anymore because of the rise in crime. Violent felonies are up over 40 percent on the subways in New York City.

That is why I joined Congressman GOTTHEIMER from New Jersey in co-sponsoring the Anti-Congestion Tax Act. We will hold the MTA accountable and end this program, stopping it dead in its tracks.

CHAMPIONING THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

(Ms. SCHOLTEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to champion the American economy and to voice my support for American workers and businesses.

I have just returned from a busy district work period back in west Michigan, where I saw firsthand the need for a champion on economic revitalization.

The district I represent has long been known for manufacturing and industry. Many global companies started right in west Michigan out of garages and storefronts, driven by their local communities and supported by their representatives in government, but we all see firsthand the difficult economic times that are taking their toll on our communities and across the United States. Just last year, my district alone lost dozens of small businesses.

This is unacceptable, and it is why I am committed to moving the American economy forward in Congress. It is so important that we, both Republicans and Democrats, support American industry and our economy. It is not only the right thing to do; it is what our constituents expect us to do.

We have so much in common here, and I believe that both parties can come together and support American ingenuity and innovation. Let's get to work.

DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF ROE V. WADE

(Mr. LANGWORTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, the consequences of Roe have been nothing short of devastating. Reporting data indicates that nearly 64 million souls have perished since the fateful decision in 1973.

I want to take this 50th anniversary, a dark moment in our history, and turn it into an opportunity to remind my fellow Americans of the gift of life, a gift that I have been so blessed and fortunate to witness.

My greatest joy has been the birth of my two children, Madeline and Oliver. In October, we welcomed our son, Oliver Theodore, who was a month early after my wife, Erin, had a very debilitating and uncertain pregnancy.

As we spent time in the NICU, we were blessed that our little boy got stronger every single day. He is now very healthy. We also saw those parents in the NICU that were praying for their babies' survival after deliveries at 23 weeks.

We witnessed the true miracle of life and the power of life. We must be a Nation that cherishes life and gives support to women facing unintended pregnancies.

Every soul has value and purpose, and it is my pledge that my work in this distinguished body will be to fervently and faithfully protect the unborn.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF RON KLAİN

(Mr. KHANNA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the historic achievements of Ron Klain, one of the best chiefs of staff in modern American history.

Ron Klain helped craft the American Rescue Plan, finally prioritizing working families and the middle class.

Ron Klain helped implement the President's vaccine plan that made Americans return to normal life.

He was key, in a closely divided House and Senate, to passing the CHIPS and Science Act. He was key to the infrastructure bill, to help the House caucus come together, progressives and moderates, and Republicans.

Ron Klain succeeded because he had personal relationships with so many Members. I believe when history is written, he will be regarded as one of the best chiefs of staff.

□ 1930

NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I stand tonight to offer my support for the National School Choice Week.

Our public education system is in dire need of reform. School administrators seem to prioritize indoctrinating students with critical race theory and other leftwing ideology, not even actually teaching them reading, writing, or math.

As a result, our students' scores in these subjects are far below other nations in the past. Schools are clearly failing to prepare our children for success. Instead, they are hiding their agenda from parents who have a right to know.

Parents have the right to know and they only want the best for their children. They want to put them in better schools and they want to have the choice to do so. National School Choice Week gives parents the option and flexibility to place their children in an institution that best fits the child's needs and their values.

It is a simple, popular solution to fix our failing public education system. School choice will incentivize public

schools to compete for each student by offering a quality education that will improve their prospects for future success.

If the public education system doesn't work for students, it is time to reform it so that it does.

SHORTAGE OF HOUSING RENTAL UNITS

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have another issue I think that this body ought to take up and that the news media ought to be looking into—and that is another cost of the huge number of illegal immigrants entering this country.

It has been brought to my attention by property developers that we already have a shortage of over 4 million rental units or residential units in the country. When we let in another 2 million people a year, what do you think happens?

It further causes a shortage of rental units and sometimes single-family units in this country, which results in what?

The law of supply and demand is driving up rents because of all the people coming in the country. We know already—a huge, new expense for schools as we have to educate illegals. We know about President Biden's vow to pay for free healthcare for illegals, which he is fulfilling.

But for the individual looking for rental units, is their rent going up \$100, \$200, or \$300 as we continue to have this shortage.

It is time the press got on this issue. It is time that the Congress got on this issue, and let people know—particularly in the southern United States—if your rents are going up, it is because of all these people that are being allowed in the country.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE DECISION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

Abortion is one of the greatest tragedies in our Nation, and Roe v. Wade opened the door for abortions on demand until birth.

Over the last five decades, more than 60 million unborn lives have been taken and a tragic, irreversible mark has been left on countless mothers, fathers, and families.

While there is still so much work to be done, I stand here hopeful. The pro-life community is stronger than ever. With last year's Dobbs v. Jackson decision, this country is beginning to move in the right direction to defend the defenseless and support life. We are changing hearts and minds.

Of course, we still have a long way to go in this fight, and I am proud that one of the first things that we voted on in this Congress was the born-alive act to protect babies who have survived an attempted abortion.

I am also proud to have introduced two bills to help protect the unborn, women, and taxpayers: the Defund Planned Parenthood Act, which I was asked to carry by former Congresswoman Vickie Hartzler who carried the bill in the last Congress, and the Protecting Life and Taxpayers Act.

We know that Americans across the country value the lives of the precious unborn babies, and it is just wrong to force them to spend their tax dollars on something that goes against their most closely held values.

This evening, I am pleased to be joined by so many champions of the unborn to celebrate the victories, with many more to come.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD), who is championing the efforts with Chairman BOST to end taxpayer-funded abortions at the VA. He has been a lead sponsor of the Women's Public Health and Safety Act, which gives States the authority to exclude abortion providers, like Planned Parenthood, from receiving Medicaid funds.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, Friday, thousands of Americans participated in the March for Life in support of the most vulnerable in our society who have no voice: the preborn.

Today, we continue to recognize the dignity of every individual and fight for the most fundamental right of all: the right to life. Our instincts were always right. Science has revealed it is not just a clump of cells in the womb. At 15 weeks, babies suck their thumbs, kick, jump, have fully developed hearts, and can feel pain.

What looks like a baby in the womb, revealed to us through ultrasound technology, is in fact a baby when they are born.

The radical Roe v. Wade decision was based on bad science and bad jurisprudence, and I am grateful that it was overturned.

Now is the time where we as a Nation must continue to build a culture that respects life and recognizes the God-given dignity of every individual and that first unalienable right: the right to life.

Despite the terror tactics we have seen come from pro-abortionists—burning and vandalizing pregnancy centers

and churches—the pro-life movement has not winced.

Pregnancy centers across the country continue operating, providing mothers with true healthcare, and they are saving lives.

Mr. Speaker, I join with these and millions across our Nation in serving as a voice for the voiceless. I, along with my fellow colleagues here, will continue to work to advance legislation that protects the preborn and the right to life.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN), who will be reintroducing the Ensuring Accurate and Complete Abortion Data Reporting Act which would compel States to report both the number of abortions and the number of infants born alive after an abortion attempt.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 1-year anniversary of the overturning of the Roe v. Wade decision.

A year ago, the Supreme Court has decided to allow the States to handle the issue of abortion themselves, ending more than 49 years of heart-breaking Federal precedent.

When we celebrate pro-life victories like this, we should not do so in a way that causes emotional pain to those women who have had an abortion; nor should we back down from being unapologetically pro-life. I believe that abortion as a matter of convenience or everyday birth control is flatout wrong.

I would like to recognize the contributions of pro-life pregnancy centers throughout our Nation that offer compassionate support and care to women as they choose to become mothers and bring life into this world.

The Palmetto Women's Center in my district is focused on uniting hope, health, and healing to women as they bring children into the world. The center is working to lower the number of abortions in South Carolina and supporting women as they choose life for their children. I applaud the work that pro-life centers are doing, and I will continue to be an advocate for all that they do.

Although giving the power on how to handle the issues of abortion back to the States through the favorable Dobbs ruling is a big win, it does not mean the work of the pro-life movement is done. Action at the State and local level will only grow in importance in the coming years. I will continue to be a voice for the voiceless.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I know that we will all continue to be a voice for the voiceless. It is so important, and our work is not done.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE), another defender of life.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, as our country grapples with how to respond to this pressing moment facing women, families, and children, I believe we must strive for a better, more compassionate future.

All Americans want women and their babies to be safe, loved, and empowered, no matter their situation or socioeconomic status.

I believe Americans are capable of seizing this moment and coming together to support those facing tremendous challenges and uncertainty.

We can support critical, comprehensive services for women in need. We can make it easier for working-class families to earn money and raise children, and we can support the rights and dignity of our youngest Americans.

This month, I was elected to serve on the Ways and Means Committee, and I intend to use this position to do better by American families.

We owe our most vulnerable children more effective policies that give them a better runway to achieve their dreams in a broken world.

I am engaging on Title IV-B and IV-E programs to ensure child welfare and foster care programs are as evidence based as MIECHV.

I am engaging on the Connecting Forever Families Act to expedite foster care placements and help child welfare courts adopt new procedures to address the unacceptable delays and backlogs for children waiting for placements in supportive homes.

I will fight for children in foster care who have to spend nights in shelters, government offices, or other inappropriate settings because of our congregate care crisis.

I am shedding light on the unfair audit rates of families who have claimed their adoption tax credit, 70 percent of whom were audited in the most recent available data.

Children are obviously our future and we must work harder to ensure every child has the opportunity and resources to thrive and succeed.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for all of his work.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE), who reintroduced the Protect the UNBORN Act last week to prohibit the implementation of and funding for President Biden's pro-abortion executive orders.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday, on January 22, our Nation mourned the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the treacherous ruling that paved the way for the murder of more than 60 million innocent babies, all precious, all worth saving, and all made in the perfect image of God.

Thankfully, the victorious Dobbs ruling overturned Roe v. Wade last year, rightfully returning the issue of abortion back to the States. However, while we champion this momentous win in the fight for the unborn, we cannot forget the millions of lives lost to the evils of abortion.

Today, I introduced a resolution to recognize January 22 as the "Day of Tears" to honor and mourn the loss of these unborn children.

But in the face of President Biden's pro-abortion agenda, we must do more

to defend the sanctity of human life. May God raise up more warriors to protect innocent life because life, after all, is our first and foremost fundamental unalienable right.

Last week, I proudly introduced—with nearly 90 original cosponsors—the Protect the UNBORN Act to block and defund President Biden's pro-abortion executive orders. Congress must take action to protect the unborn and prevent taxpayer dollars from funding the left's radical and destructive abortion agenda.

We must never downplay the evils of abortion. As an unapologetic pro-life advocate, I am proud to defend the unborn and fight for the sanctity of life.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), who is looking forward to reintroducing the Second Chance at Life Act, which would require abortion facilities to provide information at least 24 hours in advance that explains that the chemical abortion process may be reversed before taking the second of the two drugs required.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the lives lost due to the Roe v. Wade decision. There are an estimated 64 million American souls who are missing as a result. We gather today on this 50th anniversary, solemnly, but hopefully.

As Members of Congress, we are tasked with representing our constituents, even the unborn ones. I will always speak out and fight to protect the sanctity of these lives.

It is difficult to imagine how we as a Nation allowed this decision to stand for almost 50 years. I have hope and know that the Supreme Court has provided for us a brighter future with their decision in Dobbs.

Last Congress, as was just stated, I introduced the Second Chance at Life Act. Chemical abortions can be reversed with no harm to the child if the pregnant mother develops second thoughts midway through the chemical abortion process. My legislation, again, in this Congress, will give the opportunity of life for thousands of unborn children.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative SMITH and Representative FISCHBACH for their leadership in the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus and for holding this Special Order.

□ 1945

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his pro-life leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), who is a great defender of life.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate CHRIS SMITH, and I thank the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH) for having this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, today, as we mourn the millions of babies lost because of the decision in Roe v. Wade 53 years ago, we also celebrate the millions that will

be saved now because that decision has been overturned.

Tragically, Mr. Speaker, my Democratic colleagues would rather spread lies about the Supreme Court decision than to tell the truth. They want to deceive you into believing that Republicans don't care about women's health—that is crazy—even as they enable and encourage biological men to use women's bathrooms and to compete in women's sports, and they are content to simply watch pro-abortion thugs attack and burn pregnancy centers and churches around the country.

They may refuse the truth because it doesn't further their anti-life agenda, but they can't change it. The truth is that the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* returned the power to where it belongs, and that is to States.

So today I celebrate that decision, I pray for those taken, and I renew my promise to never surrender the fight for our unborn. I will always defend the voiceless, and I will always stand for life.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES), who is a freshman and a great pro-lifer.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman FISCHBACH for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago, the Supreme Court handed down a decision that will live in infamy. Because of that opinion, over 63 million unborn children have lost their lives due to abortion.

In time, future generations will look back at this moment in American history and wonder how the greatest country in the world could have permitted modern-day slaughter of the innocent. Our Nation has dehumanized those who are seen as a burden. Comfort and convenience are now the new cardinal virtues of our modern society.

It is this mentality and this historic decay of the value of life that has allowed our Nation to treat the unborn as a disposable commodity.

Over the last five decades, we have treated the unborn as problems to be solved rather than children to be loved. Due to the incredible work of millions of patriotic Americans, abortion has been consigned to the ash heap of history. On this day, we thank those Americans who for over 50 years willingly and joyfully stood outside in the January cold for the March for Life.

On June 24, 2022, the United States of America declared to the world that, once again, our Nation will embrace the intrinsic worth and value of every human life.

This is a reminder, however, that our work is not yet done. We will continue to work and convince hearts and minds that the culture of life is worth preserving.

May all those who work to promote the cause of life forever know that their cause is true, their cause is beautiful, and their cause is good.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his commitment to the unborn and for those wonderful words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD), who is a proud father, grandfather, and great-grandfather committed to fighting for life.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give a voice to the voiceless all across our country and to speak out against the culture of death that has been perpetuated by the abortion industry here in America.

Our Founding Fathers enshrined in the Declaration of Independence the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I thought it very telling that our Vice President was speaking on this very issue just the other day, and she only mentioned two of those unalienable rights—only two of them. She left out life. I think she left out life because that is where we are at now. We talk about a culture of death, and we don't talk about life.

Our Nation cannot sit idly by as 1 million unborn children have this life taken from them every year—every year. This is advancing the normalizing of this culture of death.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to stand before you now and celebrate the fact that this culture of death is turning. The Supreme Court *Dobbs* decision doesn't end abortion in America, but by placing abortion decisions at the State level where it belongs, voters now have a greater voice in shaping our abortion laws. But that doesn't stop our resolve at the Federal level.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have fought to pass laws that respect life at every stage from conception to natural death and support both mothers and babies before and after birth.

Earlier this month, I proudly joined with my colleagues in the House to pass H.R. 26, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which simply ensures that babies who survive failed abortions receive the same life-saving care that all babies who live can receive. It is amazing to think that we have to pass a law like this.

Last week, I joined Congressman ALEX MOONEY to again introduce the Life and Conception Act which recognizes the humanity and life of the unborn and ensures they receive equal protection under the 14th Amendment.

Mr. Speaker, whether we take a child's life in the womb or we take it at First and Main, that is simply geography. Life is our most precious gift from God, and it is our obligation to protect the most basic of rights for our next generation.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for his remarks. He mentioned the culture of death, but we are working and we are succeeding in turning back into the culture of life and changing hearts and minds.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER), who is my great friend. My colleague from Minnesota is a true champion of life.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative FISCHBACH for allowing me to speak and for her leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision. Over the past five decades, we have seen the devastation of this ruling which has led to the loss of tens of millions of innocent lives here in the United States.

I am heartened by the Supreme Court's reversal of this decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson* last year and the countless lives that will now be saved each year.

For me and my family, the sanctity of life is deeply personal. Nearly 20 years ago, my wife, Jodi, and I became parents of a baby born with Down syndrome. Whenever I look at my son, Isaac, I see a miracle of God's special gift to our family.

Today, Isaac is an incredible, kind, and charming young man, and we know his future is bright.

Now imagine what kind of world we would be living in if every child was given the same chance to reach their potential. The world would be much better, and our collective future would be much brighter.

Since the start of the current Congress, the House has voted on two bills to protect and support life. I am proud that all of my Republican colleagues joined me in supporting these very important measures.

Unfortunately, very few of my Democrat colleagues joined us in support.

To those Democrats who joined us in defending life: I commend you for your courage to stand up to the radical wing of your party which pushes for abortion on demand without limits and paid for with taxpayer dollars.

The right to life should not be a partisan issue. I extend an olive branch to all of my Democratic colleagues from across the aisle and encourage them to join us in our fight for life and to protect the most innocent among us—the unborn. It is up to us to do what is right and always defend life.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for sharing his personal story and that strong and true support for life.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), who introduced the Heartbeat Protection Act which would prohibit abortions when a fetal heartbeat is detected with the exceptions of rape, incest, and life of the mother, when necessary.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative FISCHBACH for hosting this Special Order tonight.

Mr. Speaker, it has been 7 months since the Supreme Court's landmark decision to overthrow *Roe v. Wade*. In that time, we have seen incredible progress to protect life around this

country, including right here in Washington, D.C.

Just last week, many tens of thousands of families came out to the annual March for Life to peacefully and prayerfully show their support for the unborn. The week before that, the new pro-life Republican majority took major steps to protect the unborn. We passed legislation to ensure babies who survive an abortion receive the healthcare they need and to condemn the attacks against pro-life crisis pregnancy centers.

All of this is so important, but it is only the first step. Advocates and people of faith around the country are going to their State and Federal lawmakers and asking for change.

It is my hope that this Republican majority will continue to pass pro-life legislation.

But my real question is: Where is the outrage?

Nearly 1 million unborn children are expected to die in 2023 from abortion in the United States of America where protecting life is our highest calling, where we are the first responder anywhere in the world anytime there is an attack on life, anytime there is a tragedy, and anytime there is a need for somebody to come there to try and save lives, and yet, in 2023, 1 million of the unborn will be aborted.

It is incredible to me that in a nation that has been blessed for so long with so much can turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to the cries of the unborn.

My question is: Where is the outrage of my fellow Americans?

Where is the cry against this injustice that is taking place?

Where are we standing not as a political party but as citizens of the world?

As I said earlier, if there is a cry for help anywhere on this globe, it is America that will be the first responder. It is America that will be there to save lives. It is America that will go to any end of the world to help, and yet in our own country, we are willing to turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to the abortion of over 1 million babies a year.

Where is the outrage?

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania. We are here to speak up for the unborn. We hear their cry, and we will continue to fight and hear the unborn.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST), who with the House Congressional Pro-Life Caucus chair, CHRIS SMITH, helped lead the amicus brief in support of Mississippi's Dobbs case. The amicus brief was joined by more than 200 Members of Congress, including myself, and urged the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade. The Congressman from Mississippi was instrumental in that fight.

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, on July 4, 1776, our Founding Fathers in the preamble to the Declaration of Independence wrote these words that form the very foundation of our great Nation: We hold these truths to be self-evident,

that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to say that we cannot and to say that we will not forget the duty of this Congress to defend the inalienable right to life.

We cannot forget the devastating impact that Roe v. Wade caused on families and the unborn.

That devastation would have continued if Dobbs v. Jackson—a case that proudly originated in my home State of Mississippi—had not come before the Supreme Court and opened the pathway to allow States to protect life.

If our great Nation can unite around any singular issue, it should be that life is sacred, that life is a gift from God, and that life should be protected.

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Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GUEST for all of his work in defense of the unborn.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT), the Values Action Team chair and a long-standing protector of life.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I come to you tonight, as a lot of my colleagues are doing, recognizing the 50-year anniversary of the very flawed decision of Roe v. Wade.

Although the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade last year, we cannot forget the lives that were lost during those almost 50 devastating years. The lives lost during the Roe era must serve as a reminder of why we continue to fight for life.

I have said before, and I will continue to say, that I am pro-life, I am pro-family, and I am pro-child.

In the wake of the Dobbs decision, many States, like my home State of Alabama, have taken steps to protect the unborn. However, there is more work to be done when it comes to protecting the lives of the innocent.

Just last week, the annual March for Life took place here in Washington, D.C., as has already been mentioned. Instead of marching on the Supreme Court, thousands of pro-life advocates marched on Congress. They know our work isn't finished, and they are calling on Congress to do our job to protect life.

I am proud to see that pro-life measures have already passed the House with bipartisan support in this new Congress. Also, I look forward to continued bipartisan efforts to protect the most vulnerable among us, and this should be, Mr. Speaker, a bipartisan issue.

This anniversary serves as a solemn reminder of the tragic losses as a result of Roe v. Wade, but it also serves as a reminder that the fight for life is not over.

I also thank Mrs. FISCHBACH for her leadership in organizing this hour to uphold the sanctity of human life.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate all the work Mr. ADERHOLT has done. We will continue our fight, and we will continue our work to protect unborn life.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, as has been mentioned, prior to 1973, there would be what I would consider a consensus in this country that it would be horrific to prematurely kill a child in the womb.

At the time, as a practical matter, there were only two or three States in which abortion was legal, and there were times in this country before then in which every State considered abortion illegal.

We know what happened after Roe v. Wade. Over the next 50 years, over 73 million lives were cut short, people who would have had long lives and accomplished who knows how much. You can imagine how America would have changed if those people had actually lived.

Recently, Roe v. Wade was overturned, and there was a lot of elation because of that. However, since that time, I think six States have had referendums.

While it was widely believed that abortion should be illegal in 1973, despite the fact that we had ultrasounds at that time, despite the fact that again and again in workplaces we pass around pictures with the ultrasounds showing children at 3, 4, or 5 months old, American opinion was a disappointment. Even in conservative States like Michigan, Kansas, Montana, and Kentucky, the public voted pro-abortion.

What can we make of this? Because we have had the ultrasound in between Roe v. Wade and now, we have to say that, unfortunately, the people who should have been educating the public have failed to do their duty. The churches in the last 50 years allowed this shift of opinion to happen.

By the way, it should have been easy to explain why abortion was horrific because of the huge increase in ultrasounds. Instead, we are joining a handful of countries—Vietnam, North Korea, Red China—out there saying abortion should be legal in some States through birth. Is this how we repay our maker for this wonderful country that we have?

I call upon America to call upon the churches to educate the public on what is right and wrong, that every one of these children is a gift from God, and that it is time for America to wake up.

I do believe right now we have, as with so many other issues, a problem with the clergy in the country, but I hope Americans can ask their clergymen where they are when these decisions are being made all around the country and where they are when these referendums are coming before the people. We need more help from the mute clergy.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GROTHMAN for his words and his commitment to the unborn.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), a champion of life, the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, and my friend.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Minnesota for her leadership with this incredibly important Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight during this Special Order to reaffirm my commitment to protect and defend the sanctity of life.

From the moment I stepped foot into this Chamber in 2009, I cemented my promise to protect our most vulnerable, the unborn.

Our Founders enshrined in the Declaration of Independence three inalienable rights. The first is the right to life.

Tonight, we celebrate the right to life. Last year, the Supreme Court made it clear, determining the right to an abortion is the responsibility of the State, through the people and their elected officials.

Mr. Speaker, life matters. Friday marked the first March for Life since the end of Roe v. Wade. Tens of thou-

sands convened in Washington to celebrate the change from a national culture of death to one of life.

The evidence that life matters goes well beyond the Supreme Court, however, and the Supreme Court ruling that was finally delivered in 2022, shifting the defense of the innocent unborn to 50 State capitols.

Here is the evidence of why we should also celebrate, in addition to that ruling. In the United States, there are 2,500 pregnancy resource centers that support unborn babies and their parents. There are only 800 abortion clinics in this Nation. That is an amazing shift in numbers. Of the practicing OB/GYN doctors, 90 percent do not perform abortions.

God bless the pregnancy resource center staff that educate, encourage, and empower men and women to make informed life choices based on Christian principles and values, their trained client advocates and medical personnel, including registered nurses, certified phlebotomy technicians, and registered diagnostic medical sonographers.

Mr. Speaker, my position on life has always been clear. You can't be a

champion for the future of this great country if you are going to limit its potential. It is my strong belief that every child, every human life, is sacred and has a purpose in this world.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his steadfast commitment to the unborn and strong support of the right to life.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues who spoke this evening for standing up to give a voice to the voiceless unborn children, for standing up for life. Our Conference will continue to be strong for mothers and their unborn children.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the fourth quarter of 2022, pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2022

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Brian Modeste	11/20	11/23	Palau		842.00		14,059.77		2,154.75		17,056.52
Kenneth Degenfelder	11/20	11/23	Palau		842.00		12,921.99		2,154.75		15,918.74
Committee total					1,684		26,981.76		4,309.50		32,975.26

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. RAÚL M. GRUALVA, Jan. 2, 2023.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2022

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Sisson, Donald	10/2	10/4	Portugal		430.00		1,280.19		425.50		2,135.69
Ismail, Lori	10/2	10/4	Portugal		430.00		1,288.69		425.50		2,144.19
Price, Matthew	10/2	10/4	Portugal		430.00		1,267.19		425.50		2,122.69
Waskiewicz, Stephen	10/2	10/4	Portugal		430.00		1,277.19		425.50		2,132.69
Sisson, Donald	10/4	10/7	Spain		1,017.00		1,513.27		133.33		2,663.60
Ismail, Lori	10/4	10/7	Spain		1,017.00		1,521.77		133.33		2,672.10
Price, Matthew	10/4	10/7	Spain		1,017.00		1,500.27		133.33		2,650.60
Waskiewicz, Stephen	10/4	10/7	Spain		1,017.00		1,510.27		133.33		2,660.60
Sisson, Donald	10/23	10/26	Belgium		1,359.72		966.29				2,326.01
Chambers, Kelly	10/23	10/26	Belgium		1,359.72		966.29				2,326.01
Sisson, Donald	10/26	10/28	France		1,079.76		966.29				2,046.05
Chambers, Kelly	10/26	10/28	France		1,079.76		966.29				2,046.05
Hon. McGovern, James	12/09	12/12	Cuba		1,179.00		728.59				1,907.58
Committee total					11,845.96		15,752.58		2,235.32		29,833.86

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN, Jan. 12, 2023.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DISPARITY AND FAIRNESS IN GROWTH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2022

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☐

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JAMES A. HIMES, Jan. 10, 2023.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-91. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 22-063, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-92. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 22-067, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-93. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 22-061, pursuant to Secs. 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-94. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 22-057, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-95. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 22-055, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-96. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 22-058, pursuant to Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-97. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 22-060, pursuant to Secs. 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-98. A letter from the General Counsel, Office of Enforcement, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustments [Docket No.: RM23-3-000; Order No.: 886] received January 19, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-99. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Secretariat Division, Office of the General Counsel, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustment [FPMR Case 2023-01; Docket

No.: GSA-FPMR-2023-0005; Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 3090-AK68) received January 19, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-100. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class D Airspace and Class E Airspace; Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport, MT; Correction [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0764; Airspace Docket No.: 21-ANM-37] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-101. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D Airspace and Class E Airspace, East Hampton and Montauk, NY [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1545; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AEA-36] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-102. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment and Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Eastern United States [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0906; Airspace Docket No.: 21-ASO-27] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-103. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-266; Juneau, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2021-1106; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AAL-70] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-104. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment and Revocation of Multiple Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Route; and Revocation of the Pawnee City, NE, Low Altitude Reporting Point in the Vicinity of Pawnee City, NE [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0712; Airspace Docket No.: 22-ACE-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-105. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Christmas Valley Airport, OR

[Docket No.: FAA-2022-0571; Airspace Docket No.: 22-ANM-46] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-106. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Montpelier, VT [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0376; Airspace Docket No.: 22-ANE-4] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-107. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment and Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Eastern United States [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0932; Airspace Docket No.: 21-AEA-22] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-108. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment and Amendment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Eastern United States [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0858; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AEA-5] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-109. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment and Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Northeast United States [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0826; Airspace Docket No.: 21-AEA-21] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-110. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment and Establishment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Northeast United States [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0482; Airspace Docket No.: 21-AEA-18] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-111. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Colored Federal Airway Amber 4 (A-4); Anaktuvuk Pass, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0078; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-2] (RIN: 2120-AA66)

received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-112. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Proposed Revocation of Colored Federal Airway Blue 79 (B-79); Annette Island, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0109; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-10] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-113. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Colored Federal Airways Blue 7 (B-7) and Green 9 (G-9); Bethel, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0186; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-6] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-114. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class C Airspace; Manchester, NH [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1472; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AWA-8] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-115. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Domestic VOR Federal Airway V-356; Mile High, CO [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0027; Airspace Docket No.: 21-ANM-70] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-116. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Colored Federal Airway Green 7 (G-7); Nome, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0301; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-21] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-117. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Colored Federal Airway Amber 6 (A-6); St. Mary's, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0299; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-18] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-118. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Colored Federal Airway Green 15 (G-15); St. Mary's, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0162; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-12] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-119. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Colored Federal Airway Red-1 (R-1) Vicinity of King Salmon, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0765; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-22] (RIN: 2120-

AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-120. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of VOR Federal Airway V-573 and Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-398 in the Vicinity of Sulphur Springs, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0617; Airspace Docket No.: 22-ASW-4] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-121. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D Airspace and Establishment of Class E Airspace; Butts Army Airfield (AAF) (Fort Carson) Airport, CO [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0797; Airspace Docket No.: 20-ANM-44] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-122. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Montpelier, VT [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0376; Airspace Docket No.: 22-ANE-4] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-123. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Colored Federal Airway Green 17 (G-17); Atkasuk, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0539; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-13] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-124. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Colored Federal Airways Amber 5 (A-5) and Blue 4 (B-4); Bettles, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0172; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-3] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-125. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Colored Federal Airway Green 18 (G-18); Point Lay, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0165; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-14] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-126. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Colored Federal Airway Blue 8 (B-8); Shishmaref, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0300; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-19] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-127. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Colored Federal Airway Amber 2 (A-2); Northway, AK

[Docket No.: FAA-2022-0335; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-17] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-128. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Oneonta, NY [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1073; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AEA-13] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-129. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Colored Federal Airway Blue 37 (B-37); Level Island, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0312; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-20] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-130. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Colored Federal Airway Red 51 (R-51); Level Island, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0120; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-15] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-131. A letter from the Chairman, Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Final Offer Rate Review; Expanding Access to Rate Relief [Docket No.: EP 755; Docket No.: EP 665 (Sub-No. 2) received January 19, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-132. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Refund of Alcohol Excise Tax [Docket No.: USCBP-2018-0033] (RIN: 1515-AE39) received January 19, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 446. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the maximum penalty for mail theft; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 447. A bill to rescue domestic medical manufacturing activity by providing incentives in economically distressed areas of the United States and its possessions; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STELL (for himself, Mr. BARR, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. FLOOD,

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. ROSE, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. FITZGERALD, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. HILL):

H.R. 448. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the registration of proxy advisory firms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BURCHETT (for himself, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, and Mr. FITZGERALD):

H.R. 449. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to increase transparency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. BURLISON (for himself, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. BIGGS, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 450. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the National Firearms Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. BICE (for herself, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. LETLOW, and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H.R. 451. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to criminalize abuse with respect to assisted reproductive technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. BARR, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BUCHSON, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 452. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to allow parents of eligible military dependent children to establish Military Education Savings Accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BISHOP of NORTH CAROLINA (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HUNT, Mr. BIGGS, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mrs. LUNA):

H.R. 453. A bill to provide remedies to members of the Armed Forces discharged or subject to adverse action under the COVID-19 vaccine mandate; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BURCHETT (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 454. A bill to protect children against sexual abuse and exploitation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BURCHETT (for himself and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 455. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to fix a technical error in the definitions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTER of GEORGIA:

H.R. 456. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to limitations on exclusive approval or licensure of orphan drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. KEATING, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 457. A bill to identify and combat corruption in countries, to establish a tiered list of countries with respect to levels of corruption by their governments and their efforts to combat such corruption, and to

evaluate whether foreign persons engaged in significant should be specially designated nationals under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 458. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the TSA to offer certain secondary screenings of passengers prior to a physical inspection if an object of concern is detected, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself and Ms. JACOBS):

H.R. 459. A bill to ensure the privacy of pregnancy termination or loss information under the HIPAA privacy regulations and the HITECH Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CROCKETT, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois):

H.R. 460. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide additional amounts of loan forgiveness to teachers of English learners and teachers of bilingual and dual language immersion students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ESTES (for himself, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BANKS, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. STAUBER):

H.R. 461. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit discrimination by abortion against an unborn child on the basis of Down syndrome; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 462. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat Puerto Rico as part of the United States for purposes of determining whether real property qualifies for treatment as a like-kind exchange; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GOOD of VIRGINIA (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. BURGESS):

H.R. 463. A bill to have education funds follow the student; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. MASSIE, and Ms. HAGEMAN):

H.R. 464. A bill to restore the separation of powers between the Congress and the President; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 465. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to improve the protection of United States investors against certain prejudicial actions taken by the government of a foreign country; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 466. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require voting systems used in elections for Federal office to

produce a voter-verified paper ballot of each vote cast on the system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRIFFITH (for himself, Mr. LATTA, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BUCHSON, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BALDERSON, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. PALMER, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. FITZGERALD, and Mr. MOONEY):

H.R. 467. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PENCE, Ms. ROSS, Mr. ROSE, Mr. MEUSER, Ms. BROWN, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. GUEST, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. SPARTZ, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 468. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to extend beyond the COVID-19 emergency period, with certain modifications, the Emergency Declaration Blanket Waiver relating to training and certification of nurse aides to alleviate burdens imposed on staff of skilled nursing facilities and nursing facilities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HERN:

H.R. 469. A bill to require asylum officers at United States embassies and consulates to conduct credible fear screenings before aliens seeking asylum may be permitted to enter the United States to apply for asylum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CASE, Ms. CHU, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEU, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PORTER, Ms. ROSS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 470. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. JOHNSON of SOUTH DAKOTA (for himself and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 471. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to commercial

motor vehicle parking, safety, and licensing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JOYCE of OHIO (for himself, Ms. ROSS, Ms. BROWN, and Mr. TURNER):

H.R. 472. A bill to require the Attorney General to propose a program for making treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and acute stress disorder available to public safety officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MACE (for herself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. FRY, and Mr. DUNCAN):

H.R. 473. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to close or realign the Marine Corps Recruit Depot located at Parris Island, South Carolina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MEUSER:

H.R. 474. A bill to ensure that employees of the Internal Revenue Service are brought back to their offices until the backlog of tax returns has been eliminated; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MFUME (for himself, Mr. BACON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. EVANS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mr. KEATING, Mr. COHEN, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER):

H.R. 475. A bill to require the Attorney General to make competitive grants to State, Tribal, and local governments to establish and maintain witness protection and assistance programs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MILLER of WEST VIRGINIA (for herself and Ms. CHU):

H.R. 476. A bill to allow community supports to meet specific needs of families and children through an electronic care portal under the MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MILLER of WEST VIRGINIA:

H.R. 477. A bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to establish a grant program for community-based maternal mentoring programs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MILLER of WEST VIRGINIA:

H.R. 478. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for the inclusion of additional expenses in dependent care FSAs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MILLER of WEST VIRGINIA:

H.R. 479. A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to target additional child care funds by allocating to States based on the number of children in poverty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. STANTON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GALLEG0, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 480. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide flexibility with the

cost share for fire management assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 481. A bill to authorize transitional sheltering assistance for individuals who live in areas with unhealthy air quality caused by wildfires, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. HORSFORD, and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 482. A bill to improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Armed Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 483. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to provide for the automatic appointment of judges to the District of Columbia courts without the advice and consent of the Senate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. ESTES, Mr. PERRY, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. CAREY, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. FALLON, Mr. MORAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. ROY, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. STAUBER, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. BABIN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. BALDERSON, and Mrs. BICE):

H.R. 484. A bill to repeal the natural gas tax; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. RODGERS of WASHINGTON (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Mr. BURGESS):

H.R. 485. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to prohibit the use of quality-adjusted life years and similar measures in coverage and payment determinations under Federal health care programs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. PALMER, Mr. POSEY, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. CLYDE, and Mrs. GREENE of Georgia):

H.R. 486. A bill to prohibit the government of the District of Columbia from using Federal funds to allow individuals who are not citizens of the United States to vote in any election, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. SELF (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 487. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to prohibit a State from registering an individual to vote in elections for Federal office held in the State unless the individual provides documentary proof that the individual is a cit-

izen of the United States; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mrs. STEEL (for herself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. BURCHETT, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.R. 488. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the amendments made to reporting of third party network transactions by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 489. A bill to provide that the notice titled "Designating Aliens for Expedited Removal" shall be given the full force and effect of law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WEBSTER of FLORIDA:

H.R. 490. A bill to establish the Federal Infrastructure Bank to facilitate investment in, and the long-term financing of, economically viable United States infrastructure projects that provide a public benefit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WILLIAMS of GEORGIA (for herself, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. JACOBS, and Mr. GARBARINO):

H.R. 491. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to adjust the rate of per diem payments provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grantees that provide services to homeless veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WITTMAN (for himself and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 492. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a patient outreach system relating to mental health care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CLYDE (for himself, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. EZELL, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. GUEST):

H. Res. 52. A resolution memorializing the unborn by lowering the United States flag to half-staff on the 22d day of January each year; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H. Res. 53. A resolution raising awareness and encouraging the prevention of stalking by expressing support for the designation of January 2023 as "National Stalking Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. BERA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. BROWN, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CROW, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. EVANS, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HIMES, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LIEU, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. ROSS, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. SCHKOWSKY, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms.

VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN
SCHULTZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLE-
MAN):

H. Res. 54. A resolution affirming the role of the United States in improving access to quality, inclusive public education and improving learning outcomes for children and adolescents, particularly for girls, around the world; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. BACON, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. TONKO, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. TOKUDA):

H. Res. 55. A resolution recognizing the roles and the contributions of Americas Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and their critical role in providing quality health care for the public and the Nation's Armed Forces for more than 150 years, through multiple public health emergencies, and beyond; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

ML-1. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Ohio, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 259, strongly urging the President of the United States and United States Congress to take specified actions to encourage the production of domestic crude oil, natural gas, and coal resources; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. FERGUSON introduced A bill (H.R. 493) for the relief of Michael Janssen and Steven Passantino; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)1(l) of rule XII and Section 31(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 446.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 447.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have the Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; [. . .]—And To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for car-

rying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. STEIL:

H.R. 448.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution: "To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

The single subject of this legislation is:

Corporate governance

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 449.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Amends the Small Business Act to increase transparency and to improve access to microloans for rural small businesses.

By Mr. BURLISON:

H.R. 450.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation repeals the National Firearms Act of 1934.

By Mrs. BICE:

H.R. 451.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill solely modifies Title 18 USC. It does so by creating a new federal criminal law associated with fertility fraud.

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 452.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

The single subject of this legislation is:
Education

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina:

H.R. 453.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Military covid-19 vaccine requirements

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 454.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Amends federal law to protect children against sexual abuse and exploitation.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 455.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Controlled Substances Act to fix a technical error in the definitions.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 456.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 457.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 458.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "To pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States"

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes"

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 459.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To ensure the privacy of pregnancy termination or loss information under the HIPAA privacy regulations and the HITECH Act.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 460.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would expand loan forgiveness eligibility to teachers of English Learners.

By Mr. ESTES:

H.R. 461.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying into execution the powers vested by the Constitution

Section 5 of the 14th Amendment

By Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 462.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution, which provide as follows:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; [. . .]—And

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Moreover, the Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article IV, Section 3, which provides, in relevant part, as follows:

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:

H.R. 463.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

School choice.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 464.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

The single subject of this legislation is:
Restoring separation of powers between the Congress and the President

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 465.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

The single subject of this legislation is:

Protecting US investments

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 466.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

The single subject of this legislation is:

Electoral reform

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 467.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 468.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health care

By Mr. HERN:

H.R. 469.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4

The single subject of this legislation is:

Immigration

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 470.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section III, Clause II

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 471.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 472.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Attorney General to propose a program for making treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and acute stress disorder available to public safety officers.

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 473.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prevent Federal funds from being used to close or realign Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, or to conduct any planning or other activity related to such closure or realignment.

By Mr. MEUSER:

H.R. 474.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Taxation

By Mr. MFUME:

H.R. 475.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which gives Congress the power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Pow-

ers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Public Safety

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.R. 476.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to "provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.R. 477.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution to "provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.R. 478.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to "provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.R. 479.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 480.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Wildfire

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 481.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Wildfire Smoke Assistance

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 482.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Wildfire

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 483.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 484.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Repeal of the Natural Gas Tax.

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington:

H.R. 485.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

The subject of this bill is amending title XI of the Social Security Act to prohibit the use of quality-adjusted life years and similar measures in coverage and payment determinations under federal health care programs.

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 486.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution—to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers,

and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. SELF:

H.R. 487.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 4, Clause 1: The Times, Places, and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed by each state by the legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or such Regulations, except as to the Places of Choosing Senators [Page H469]

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to prohibit a State from registering an individual to vote in elections for Federal office held in the State unless the individual provides documentary proof that the individual is a citizen of the United States.

By Mrs. STEEL:

H.R. 488.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Taxation

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 489.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill codifies an executive order regarding the Expedited Removal immigration policy.

By Mr. WEBSTER of Florida:

H.R. 490.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia:

H.R. 491.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 492.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. FERGUSON:

H.R. 493.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, to "provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 7: Mr. DIAZ-BALART and Mr. FLOOD.

H.R. 21: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. WOMACK, Mrs. HINSON, Mrs. BOEBERT, and Mr. VAN ORDEN.

H.R. 24: Mr. BACON and Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 25: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 32: Mr. VEASEY and Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 33: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania and Ms. SEWELL.

H.R. 34: Ms. SEWELL.

H.R. 35: Ms. SEWELL and Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.

H.R. 38: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.

H.R. 41: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. HUDSON, and Ms. LETLOW.

H.R. 51: Ms. BROWN and Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER.

H.R. 73: Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 82: Mr. KEATING, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. BARR, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Wash- ington, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. RUIZ, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. CARL, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 105: Mr. DUNCAN.

H.R. 106: Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 114: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 116: Mr. GAETZ, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. DUNCAN.

H.R. 119: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 130: Mr. KUSTOFF.

H.R. 139: Mr. GOODEN of Texas and Mr. STAUBER.

H.R. 159: Mr. MFUME and Ms. MACE.

H.R. 163: Mrs. HINSON and Ms. SALAZAR.

H.R. 173: Mrs. HINSON.

H.R. 185: Mr. DUNCAN, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. LUNA, and Mr. KILEY.

H.R. 189: Mr. OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 190: Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 192: Mr. CRAWFORD, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. CLYDE, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 205: Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 209: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 211: Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. TRONE, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. BOST, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 223: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. BANKS, and Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 233: Mr. PENCE, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. CAREY, Mr. CLYDE, and Mr. BARR.

H.R. 239: Mr. GRJALVA.

H.R. 243: Mr. KHANNA and Mr. GARCÍA of Il- linois.

H.R. 248: Mr. NEWHOUSE and Mr. MANN.

H.R. 255: Mr. NEAL.

H.R. 256: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.

H.R. 259: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 261: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 291: Mr. GARBARINO.

H.R. 292: Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. CHU, and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 298: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.

H.R. 309: Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. CON- NOLLY, and Mr. CASE.

H.R. 314: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 317: Mr. MANN.

H.R. 329: Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 331: Mrs. LESKO and Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 335: Mr. TIMMONS.

H.R. 337: Mr. KUSTOFF.

H.R. 343: Mr. MILLS.

H.R. 346: Mr. DONALDS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. ISSA, Mr. WOMACK, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. GUEST, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. FINSTAD, and Mr. VAN ORDEN.

H.R. 350: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.

H.R. 354: Mr. OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 361: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 369: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ and Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California.

H.R. 371: Mr. MORAN, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. FULCHER, Ms. FOXX, and Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 372: Mr. MORAN, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 383: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mrs. BOEBERT.

H.R. 385: Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 386: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 393: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 394: Ms. TITUS and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 398: Mr. BABIN, Mr. GUEST, Mr. STAUBER, and Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 399: Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 400: Mr. JAMES.

H.R. 407: Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 408: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. WAT- SON COLEMAN, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 414: Mrs. PELTOLA.

H.R. 416: Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 421: Mrs. LESKO and Mr. MANN.

H.R. 424: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina and Mr. FITZGERALD.

H.R. 429: Mr. LAMBORN and Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 431: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. ELLZEY, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 435: Mr. GUEST, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, and Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 436: Mrs. BOEBERT and Mr. GUEST.

H.R. 437: Mr. GUEST and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 441: Ms. TENNEY, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.J. Res. 5: Mr. POSEY.

H.J. Res. 7: Mr. KILEY.

H.J. Res. 8: Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. EZELL, and Mr. STAUBER.

H.J. Res. 12: Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. LATTA.

H.J. Res. 13: Ms. PELOSI and Mr. RUIZ.

H.J. Res. 14: Mr. KIM of New Jersey and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H. Con. Res. 7: Mr. POCAN, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. MACE, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. MAST, Mr. ELLZEY, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. MANNING, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. KILMER, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. STE- VENS, Mr. KILEY, Mr. SOTO, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SHERRILL, Mrs. BOEBERT, and Mrs. CAMMACK.

H. Res. 8: Mrs. CAMMACK.

H. Res. 29: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H. Res. 33: Mr. HIGGINS of New York.

H. Res. 35: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY and Mr. RASKIN.

H. Res. 37: Mrs. BEATTY.

H. Res. 48: Mr. FULCHER, Mr. MANN, and Mr. CRAWFORD.

H. Res. 51: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. KILEY, and Mrs. CAMMACK.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and reso- lutions, as follows:

H.R. 25: Mr. MOORE of Utah.

H.R. 106: Mrs. HINSON.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, pro- posed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MRS. GREENE OF GEORGIA

AMENDMENT No. 2: Page 2, beginning on line 9, strike "Except in the case of a severe energy supply interruption described in sub- section (d), the" and insert "The".

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. CASTOR OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT No. 3: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period. Page 3, after line 9, add the following:

"(4) OFFSHORE EXCLUSIONS.—The plan re- quired by paragraph (1) shall not include oil and gas leasing in any tract located in the South Atlantic Planning Area, the Straits of Florida Planning Area, or the in any area of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico that is referred

to in section 104(a) of the Gulf of Mexico En- ergy Security Act of 2006."

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT No. 4: Page 3, line 1, strike "LIMITATION" and insert "LIMITATIONS".

Page 3, line 2, strike "shall not" and insert "shall not—".

Page 3, line 2, strike "provide for" and in- sert the following:

"(A) provide for".

Page 3, line 5, strike "percent." and insert "percent; and".

Page 3, after line 5, insert the following:

"(B) provide for oil and gas leasing of any Federal lands that have a high concentration of orphaned oil and gas wells."

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. FALLON

AMENDMENT No. 5: Add to the end the fol- lowing:

SEC. 3. ANNUAL THREAT ASSESSMENT.

Section 161 of the Energy Policy and Con- servation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(1) ANNUAL THREAT ASSESSMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this sub- section, and every year thereafter, the Sec- retary shall submit to Congress a report con- taining an assessment of any physical or cy- bersecurity threats to a storage facility or a related facility of the Reserve.

"(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The assessment re- quired under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

"(A) The dates of each physical or cyberse- curity threat that occurred.

"(B) The resolution of such physical or cy- bersecurity threat.

"(C) The local, State, and Federal agencies that assisted in mitigating such physical or cybersecurity threat.

"(D) Any other information the Secretary determines necessary."

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. WITTMAN

AMENDMENT No. 6: Add at the end the fol- lowing:

SEC. 3. SPR CRUDE OIL EXPORT BAN.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including section 161 of the Energy Pol- icy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241), with respect to the draw down and sale at auction of any crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve after the date of enact- ment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Com- merce and the Director of National Intel- ligence, shall require, as a condition of any such sale, that—

(1) the crude oil not be exported to—

(A) the People's Republic of China;

(B) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; or

(C) the Islamic Republic of Iran; and

(2) the recipient is not under the owner- ship, control, or influence of the Chinese Communist Party.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. DELBENE

AMENDMENT No. 7: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, add the following:

"(4) OFFSHORE EXCLUSIONS.—The plan re- quired by paragraph (1) shall not include oil and gas leasing in any tract located in the Washington/Oregon planning area."

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. CLEAVER

AMENDMENT No. 8: Page 3, line 9, strike "and the Secretary of Defense" and insert "the Secretary of Defense, the Adminis- trator of the Environmental Protection

Agency, and the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. CLEAVER

AMENDMENT No. 9: Page 2, line 11, insert “or during the period of a national emergency declared under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.)” after “(d)”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. TLAIB

AMENDMENT No. 10: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.—Before issuing any oil and gas lease or permit pursuant to the plan, the Secretary of the Interior shall complete a separate environmental review for each such lease and permit in accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. TLAIB

AMENDMENT No. 11: Page 3, line 9, insert “the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality,” before “and the”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. TLAIB

AMENDMENT No. 12: Page 2, line 13, strike “date of enactment of this subsection” and insert “date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)”.

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date on which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency submits to Congress a report containing the results of a study of the effects on environmental justice and greenhouse gas emissions that are likely to result from implementation of the plan required to be developed under such paragraph.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. TLAIB

AMENDMENT No. 13: Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. REPORT ON CAMPAIGN DONATIONS FROM THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chair of the Federal Election Commission shall submit to Congress a report on campaign donations made during the 2 most recent election cycles to Members of Congress from oil and gas industry lobbyists and corporations.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. TLAIB

AMENDMENT No. 14: Page 3, line 5, strike “10 percent” and insert “0.1 percent”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. HUFFMAN

AMENDMENT No. 15: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, add the following:

“(4) OFFSHORE EXCLUSIONS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not include oil and gas leasing in any tract located in the Northern California planning area.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. GOLDMAN OF NEW YORK

AMENDMENT No. 16: Page 2, beginning on line 4, amend section 2 to read as follows:

SEC. 2. CERTIFICATION.

Section 161 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(k) CERTIFICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except in the case of a severe energy supply interruption or by obligations of the United States under the international energy program, as described in subsection (d), the Secretary may not execute the first drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve after the date of enactment of this subsection, whether through sale, exchange, or loan, until the Secretary has submitted to Congress a certification that—

“(A) the United States is meeting the Paris Climate Accords targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

“(B) the recommendations of the Justice40 initiative, established under Executive Order 14008, are being met.

“(2) CONSULTATION.—In submitting a certification to Congress under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Secretary of State, and the heads of any other relevant Federal agencies.

“(3) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the Secretary submits to Congress a certification under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report outlining—

“(A) any progress made to meet the targets of the United States to the Paris Climate Accords; and

“(B) how funds made available under or by Public Law 117–169, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58), and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2) are being used to confront decades of underinvestment in disadvantaged communities that bear the burden of climate change and environmental hazards.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. MCCORMICK

AMENDMENT No. 17: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90 days after the plan under paragraph (1) is developed, the Secretary shall implement such plan.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. LEVIN

AMENDMENT No. 18: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) OFFSHORE EXCLUSIONS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not include oil and gas leasing in any tract located in the Southern California planning area.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. LEVIN

AMENDMENT No. 19: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) INSPECTION FEES.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the plan shall not include any leases on the Outer Continental Shelf unless the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, certifies that well inspection fees assessed for a fiscal year on oil and gas wells in the Outer Continental Shelf will fully cover the cost of Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement inspections of such oil and gas wells in the subsequent fiscal year.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. LEVIN

AMENDMENT No. 20: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) PUBLICATION REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the plan shall not include any leases on Federal lands unless the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, publishes—

“(A) the identity of each Federal oil and gas leaseholder and operator on a public website; and

“(B) information on all lease transfers and lease stipulations.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. LEVIN

AMENDMENT No. 21: Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5 and insert the following:

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not—

“(A) provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent; or

“(B) provide for an increase in Federal lands described in paragraph (1) that would not provide a fair return for taxpayers.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. JACOBS

AMENDMENT No. 22: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) ECONOMIC EXCLUSION.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for oil and gas leasing in any tract on the Outer Continental Shelf where oil and gas leasing would adversely impact the tourism economy and coastal communities and businesses of California.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. THOMPSON OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT No. 23: Page 2, line 3, insert “and Conservation” before “Response Act”.

Page 2, line 4, insert “AND CONSERVATION” after “INCREASE”.

Page 2, line 15, strike “plan to increase” and insert “plan—”.

Page 2, line 15, before “the” insert the following:

“(A) to increase

Page 2, line 25, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

Page 2, after line 25, insert the following:

“(B) to offset any drawdowns of petroleum products in the Reserve with measures that reduce the demand for oil.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. BARRAGAN

AMENDMENT No. 24: Page 3, line 5, strike the period at the end and insert “, nor shall it include any Federal land a boundary of which is within 3,200 feet of a residence, school, or hospital.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MRS. LEE OF NEVADA

AMENDMENT No. 25: Page 3, line 2, strike “provide for a” and insert “provide for—”.

Page 3, line 2, before “total increase” insert the following:

“(A) a

Page 3, line 5, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

Page 3, after line 5, insert the following:

“(B) an increase in Federal lands described in paragraph (1) that have no or low potential for oil and gas development.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PANETTA

AMENDMENT No. 26: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, add the following:

“(4) OFFSHORE EXCLUSIONS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not include oil and gas leasing in any tract located in the Central California planning area.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. MANNING

AMENDMENT No. 27: Page 2, line 16, strike “including” and insert “not including”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. MANNING

AMENDMENT NO. 28: Page 3, line 5, strike “10” and insert “1”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. SPANBERGER

AMENDMENT NO. 29: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, add the following:

“(4) OFFSHORE EXCLUSION.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not include oil and gas leasing in any tract located off the coast of Virginia.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. MACE

AMENDMENT NO. 30: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. NO OIL AND GAS LEASING ON CERTAIN FEDERAL LANDS.

During the period that begins on the date of enactment of this Act and ends January 1, 2052, the Secretary of the Interior shall not offer for oil and gas leasing, preleasing, or any related activity any area withdrawn by the Presidential memorandum titled “Memorandum on the Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf from Leasing Disposition” and dated September 8, 2020.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. MACE

AMENDMENT NO. 31: Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. DOE INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATION.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Energy shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of an investigation into all damage to, and increased maintenance requirements for, storage facilities and related facilities of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (as such terms are defined in section 152 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6232)) resulting from all drawdowns of petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve occurring after January 20, 2021, including any resulting well remediation, cavern closures, and pipeline and pump replacements.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MRS. BOEBERT

AMENDMENT NO. 32: Page 3, line 9, strike the closed quotation marks and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit the plan developed under paragraph (1) to the Committees on Armed Services, Agriculture, Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Energy and Natural Resources, Environment and Public Works, Armed Services, and Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MRS. BOEBERT

AMENDMENT NO. 33: Page 3, line 5, strike “10 percent” and insert “15 percent”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MRS. BOEBERT

AMENDMENT NO. 34: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) CANCELLATION OF WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL LANDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the plan required by paragraph (1) shall prevent the Secretary of the

Interior from carrying out the withdrawal described in the notice of proposed withdrawal titled “Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Public Meeting, Thompson Divide Area, Colorado” and published October 17, 2022.

“(5) The approximately 224,793.73 acres, including approximately 200,518.28 acres of National Forest System lands, approximately 15,464.99 acres of BLM-managed public lands, and approximately 8,810.46 acres of reserved Federal mineral interest within the Thompson Divide area shall not be subject to withdrawal from disposition under United States mineral and geothermal leasing law unless the withdrawal is specifically approved by an Act of Congress enacted after the date of the enactment of this subsection.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 35: Page 2, line 11, insert “or a drawdown with respect to which the petroleum products drawn down will be exchanged pursuant to subsection (i),” after “(d),”.

Page 2, line 13, strike “date of enactment of this subsection” and insert “date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)”.

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall not take effect until the Secretary submits to Congress a report on the necessity of acting under the authority of this section to refill the Reserve.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 36: Page 2, line 11, insert “or a test drawdown under subsection (g),” after “(d),”.

Page 2, line 13, strike “date of enactment of this subsection” and insert “date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)”.

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall not take effect until the Secretary submits to Congress a report on the necessity of acting under the authority of this section to refill the Reserve.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 37: Insert on page 2 line 9 following “Except in the case of” insert “Exchanges, which are an authorized procedure for oil acquisitions, or” 42 USC 161(i) or” This amendment allows the beneficial arrangement that exists that allow refiners to acquire crude of higher value than what they will be required to return to the reserve. They can lock in the differential between the current contract price and the future price in outer months and years.

Insert at the appropriate section of the bill the following; This amendment and future amendments shall not go into effect until the Secretary provides a report on the necessity of acting under the authority of this section to refill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

The program for office is mandated by law to coordinate with the industry on steps taken under title 42 6231

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE

AMENDMENT NO. 38: Insert on page 2 line 9 following “Except in the case of” insert “Actions taken to prevent or reduce adverse impacts caused by severe domestic energy supply interruptions: 42 USC 6241(h). This is a limited drawdown and sale authority that is limited to 30 million barrels within 90 days or less.

Page 2 Line 13 strike everything to the end of the page. Insert Sales of 100,000,000 barrels or more that occur in less than 36 months shall require a report on the impact on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve

Insert at the appropriate section of the bill the following; This amendment and future amendments shall not go into effect until the Secretary provides a report on the necessity of acting under the authority of this section to refill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. HUIZENGA OF MICHIGAN

AMENDMENT NO. 39: Page 2, line 24, strike “limitation” and insert “limitations”.

Page 3, beginning on line 1, strike paragraph (2) and insert the following:

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) not provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent; and

“(B) with respect to any drawdown or sale of petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve that occurs during the 5-month period immediately preceding a regularly scheduled Federal general election, require the Secretary to submit in writing to Congress, concurrently with such drawdown or sale, a report detailing the reason for such drawdown or sale.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. GOTTHEIMER

AMENDMENT NO. 40: Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“In consultation with these agencies to ensure any such plan will not result in the sale of Strategic Petroleum Reserve reserves to Iran, China, North Korea, or Russia.”

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PERRY

AMENDMENT NO. 41: Page 3, line 9, strike the closed quotation marks and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) REQUIREMENTS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall include a list of parcels planned to be offered for lease, including, for each such parcel—

“(A) the size of the parcel, by acre;

“(B) the location of the parcel; and

“(C) any permits and approvals necessary to access the parcel and produce oil and gas on the parcel.”.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. TENNEY

AMENDMENT NO. 42: Page 2, line 15, strike “Secretary” and insert “Secretary—”.

Page 2, line 15, strike “has developed” and insert the following:

“(A) has developed

Page 2, line 25, strike “(2).” and insert “(2); and”.

Page 2, after line 25, insert the following:

“(B) has submitted to Congress a list of existing regulatory and tax policies that hold back adequate domestic oil and gas production.

Page 3, line 4, strike “(1)” and insert “(1)(A)”.

Page 3, line 7, strike “(1)” and insert “(1)(A)”.

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

“(4) CONSULTATION REGARDING LIST.—The Secretary shall prepare the list required by paragraph (1)(B) in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense.”.



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023

No. 15

Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, January 3, 2023)

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the Earth belongs to You and everything in it. We look to You in every season of life's pilgrimage because You remain the champion that initiates and perfects our faith.

Lord, help us to maximize today's possibilities with humble and grateful hearts. Forgive our past faults and failures and empower us to press forward with faith toward a productive tomorrow.

Bless our lawmakers and the members of their staffs. May the words of their lips and the meditations of their hearts bring glory to You. Let not life's weariness or this world's confusion rob them of their trust in You.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with

Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. WARNOCK. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

RECOGNIZING THE NEW PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, just a few moments before you assumed the Chair, Senator MURRAY opened the Senate as President pro tempore for the first time. Kudos, congratulations.

She is a great, great Member. She is the chair of Appropriations and now PPT, and it was a wonderful thing to see her open up the Senate for the first time as PPT. So congratulations to Senator MURRAY and to all of us for having such a good President pro tempore.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN AGENDA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on to business, in no time at all, the House Republicans are off to the rockiest start of any new majority in recent memory. Have you ever seen anything like this? We aren't even a month into the new Congress, and already the House GOP has shown the

American people they have been consumed by chaos, paralyzed by division, and held captive by the most extreme elements of their conference.

On their first day of voting—the very first day—House Republicans decided their first order of business as the new majority was to pass legislation making it easier for ultrarich tax cheats to escape accountability. Amazing. That is their first thing. At the same time, as they did that, they would blow a hole—a \$100 billion hole—in the deficit because according to CBO, the amount of money brought into the Federal Treasury by closing some of these loopholes against tax cheats—very wealthy tax cheats—would far exceed the expenditure made for the new IRS agents. The deficit would come down if we passed this legislation. For all the talk on the other side about we have got to bring down the deficit—not when it comes to closing loopholes of the ultrarich and corporations that pay a smaller percentage than most Americans, uh-uh. Wow. Apparently, cutting taxes for megacorporations and the 1 percent was not enough for Republicans 5 years ago. They did that in the Trump tax bill. Now they want to make things even easier for tax cheats.

Then, a few days later, the House Republicans doubled down on their war on women by passing measures that will undermine women's freedom of choice.

Make no mistake, these bills will never see the light of day in the Senate. But again, the extreme—the extreme—MAGA fringe element of the Republican Party seems to be controlling the whole entity. We hope that doesn't last for long.

We in the Senate will serve as an extinguishable firewall and stop the anti-woman, anti-health, anti-choice bills in their tracks. So, right off the bat, the House Republicans are showing us exactly whose corner they are

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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in: the ultrarich and the fringe elements of their party.

Now, make no mistake, Democrats want to work with a competent and capable Republican Party wherever possible to make life better for average Americans. Democrats are united in this commitment because we all saw firsthand how bipartisanship was the key to so many of last year's successes. Later today, in fact, I will join President Biden, Leader Jeffries, and a number of Senate and House colleagues precisely to talk about how we can turn our unity into action to help the American people.

House Republicans, meanwhile, seem trapped in a cycle of extremism so powerful that now they are even giving proposals like a national sales tax—a national sales tax—serious consideration. According to some House Republicans, House leadership has agreed to give GOP radicals a vote on a 30-percent national sales tax on all goods across the board. That means, right now, with inflation finally beginning to drop, Republicans are looking to make Americans pay 30 percent more for everything they buy.

Look, if Republicans want to have a debate with Democrats on their national sales tax bill, we will be happy to have it. We would love to hear Republicans explain to the American people why it is a good idea to send prices skyrocketing on everything from cars to groceries, to diapers, and everything in between. We would love to hear Republicans tell seniors why their expenses would go up by a third after they have spent a lifetime for retirement. And we would love to hear Republicans explain to middle-class families why their taxes would increase by thousands of dollars a year while the ultrarich see their taxes go down. If Republicans want to push this terrible proposal, they are welcome to make their case. Make our day.

I think many within the Republicans own ranks recognize that a national sales tax is an especially dimwitted idea. Even Grover Norquist, whose ideas on tax are far away from most Americans—and he is one of the most conservative voices out there—called it “a terrible idea.”

Even Steve Forbes said this would make the average new home in this country cost \$100,000 more.

Young families, do you want to buy a home? Some of our Republican friends want to add \$100,000 to the cost of buying that home, and of course it would raise bills by thousands more. And yet—yet—despite the insanity of this idea, the House Republican leadership is bent to the MAGA wing of the Republican Party and have promised a vote.

If this is how House Republicans want to spend their time—taxing middle-class families, attacking women's freedom of choice, giving cover to tax cheats—be our guest.

Once again, this is the central quandary of the new Republican majority.

By bending to the demands of the MAGA hard right, Speaker MCCARTHY has guaranteed that Republicans will have to constantly cater to the whims of the MAGA wing at the expense of the American people.

Now, we will be a firewall against all of these things, and I am sure the American people are glad that we have a Democratic majority in the Senate to stop some of these rather insane proposals because when extremists run the show, as seems to be happening in the House, it makes it nearly impossible to have serious-minded, constructive conversations on the big issues that matter.

No issue, of course, will matter more in the coming months than raising the debt ceiling. Over the next few months, we are going to hear more about the debt ceiling in Congress, maybe more than any other issue. But the matter is very simple. If the United States is allowed to default on its debt for the first time, the consequences will be severe and every single American will pay the price.

A default means interest rates will spike on everything from car loans to credit cards, to mortgages. It means that Americans will have to pay thousands of dollars more on regular expenses. Homes will lose their value. Homes, the average middle-class person's piece of the rock that they struggled and saved for so that they could own a home and so they don't have to pay rent and can pay a mortgage where they get equity—those homes will lose their value if we default, God forbid, on the debt because mortgage interest rates will soar. That means people will have less money to pay for a home and supply and demand just sits. The price goes down. The value goes down.

Meanwhile, the millions of Americans who have saved for retirement will see their retirement plans, like 401(k)s, lose their value, robbing retirees of their hard-earned livelihoods.

So the dangers of default are not abstract. Oh, no, this is not some academic argument up there in the clouds. This affects every American family, and we are going to make sure that they hear all about it. The consequences are as real as they get, and the entire world is watching what we do here in Congress.

But, rather than work with Democrats in a productive, constructive way to raise the debt ceiling, the House GOP has immediately resorted to brinksmanship and hostage-taking. They say they will not raise the debt ceiling unless we give in to their demands for draconian spending cuts that would impact just about every American—again, in a very bad way.

Well, I say to my Republican colleagues, if you want to talk about deep cuts, then you have an obligation—an obligation—to show the American people precisely what kind of cuts you are talking about.

Are Republicans going to hold Social Security hostage in exchange for the

debt ceiling or pay raises for our troops or support for veterans or funding for police and fire and first responders or Medicare funding that millions of seniors rely on?

Republicans, you owe the American people answers on what you mean by spending cuts.

Remember, the House rules that the GOP approved are clear. They need to bring a debt ceiling bill to the floor, let the entirety of the House debate it and vote on it, and let the American people see and assess the cuts for themselves.

So, once again, to my House GOP colleagues, if you are serious about spending cuts, show us the math. Show us why you think it is worth risking a global financial crisis just to pass an extremist agenda, because, inevitably, what you are saying are cuts are vital to so many Americans—so many Americans. Being in the majority means that it won't be enough to hide behind time-worn rhetoric about wasteful spending. When it comes to the debt ceiling, the substance counts; the details count; and the consequences are very, very real.

Unless the Republicans can resolve their own chaos and beat back their own extremism, I fear that every day that passes without action on the debt ceiling will increase the risk of default and risk the great harm it will do to the American people. And, should that happen, Americans will see that the fault lies entirely in the hands of the radical GOP.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Biden administration has spent 2 years turning its back on the proven tools and policies that Republicans used to strengthen our southern border—2 years of a functionally open borders policy from Washington Democrats and 2 years of chaos and suffering as a result.

Last week, Customs and Border Protection announced that an already recordbreaking year ended on a particularly catastrophic note. Illegal immigration apprehensions clocked an all-time high of more than 2.7 million during the last fiscal year—by far the highest annual total ever recorded. But then December set an astonishing

record all by itself at over 250,000 apprehensions. Last month was CBP's busiest month ever recorded.

The American people are outraged at this willful failure. They rate immigration and the border as one of the single biggest problems facing our country, second only to the economy.

Two-thirds—two-thirds—of the country disapprove of President Biden's handling of immigration and the border. That is a 67-percent supermajority of Americans who believe this administration is failing on border security.

Our Democratic friends tie themselves in knots making excuses for why they can't simply do their job, enforce Federal law, and secure our border. Their far-left base makes them pretend that we can't enforce the laws on the books unless—unless—we find new ways to be even more generous to people who come here illegally. It is nonsensical.

Even local officials who belong to the Democratic Party are rapidly losing patience with the Biden administration's border incompetence.

The Democratic mayor of New York, Eric Adams, has spent months sounding the alarm on the catastrophic effects of this administration's functionally open borders.

He said:

This is a national crisis.

He said:

There is no more room in New York.

Yet the far left attacks him, the mayor of New York, for pointing out the problem.

The Democratic Governor of Colorado is taking a cue from Governor Abbott and Governor DeSantis and arranging transportation for illegal immigrants to various liberal jurisdictions that have self-identified as so-called sanctuary cities.

There is a growing bipartisan chorus that is begging—begging—President Biden to do his job and secure our Nation. It doesn't take new laws. It doesn't take some new, grand bargain or amnesty. The administration just needs to do its job: Secure the border, and let law enforcement enforce our laws. The Biden administration has all the tools and authorities it needs to tackle this crisis—if a solution were actually what they were after.

UKRAINE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on another matter, it has been a full year since Putin escalated Russia's brutal war against Ukraine and nearly 9 years since he began his military effort to take over the sovereign country in early 2014. Putin's nonmilitary efforts to meddle in Ukraine, undermine it, and control its population long predated even 2014. It has been 15 years since Putin invaded Georgia. A few years before that, he said publicly the breakup of the Soviet Union was "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century."

The former KGB agent who has run the Kremlin for two decades has been very, very consistent: repression at home, aggression abroad, assassinations, invasions, poisonings, and political interference. And whenever the rest of the world responded with accommodation rather than with resolve, Putin drew the natural conclusion that he could do whatever he wanted.

But for the past 11 months, the brave men and women in Ukraine have defied the odds. They have endured tremendous hardship and stood their ground. They have fought bravely for their families, their freedom, and their country.

At every step of the way, investments from the United States and our allies have equipped the Ukrainian people to exact a heavy price from the Russian invaders. Western assistance has played a key role, but it has come too slowly and haltingly.

Despite my urging the Biden administration to act sooner, aid did not come early enough to help Ukraine deter Putin's escalation before it actually happened, nor to slow down Russia's brutal and rapid advance in the east and the south. It has not come quickly enough to help Ukraine sustain counteroffensives or fully defend its cities against missile and drone attacks.

The United States and our friends and our partners have done enough to prevent Ukraine from losing—from losing—but we have not yet done enough to help Ukraine actually win.

A protracted stalemate is neither in Ukraine's interest nor ours. The solution that is both the most humane and the most advantageous to America's interests is quite simple: Help Ukraine win this war.

We know what it will take to make this possible. As our colleague Senator WICKER said, "We can shift this war immediately in Ukraine's favor by providing a range of advanced weapons, including tanks, drones, and tactical missiles." And as Chairman MCCAUL from the House said this past weekend, it is not the United States that will be provocative if we send stronger assistance.

Mr. Putin is the provocative one. . . . He invaded a sovereign territory, aggressively [and] unprovoked.

Yet some of freedom's most powerful friends remain hesitant. For many months, Germany has not only resisted calls to send Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine but has actually also prevented other European nations from transferring their own German-produced Leopards to Ukraine. Time is short, and while Berlin agonizes over its own decision whether to provide Leopards to Ukraine, it should proactively and explicitly make clear that other allies are free to do so.

What about the Biden administration here at home? The administration's latest deliveries failed to include—failed to include—the longer range mis-

siles and more sophisticated munitions that Ukraine has been requesting literally for months—for months.

Ukraine's brave resistance deserves our continued praise, but more importantly, it needs our concrete and consistent materiel support. Ukraine's strengths cannot keep self-detering ourselves and letting the aggressors, the invaders, dictate the pace. So it is time—past time—for the Biden administration and our allies to get serious about helping Ukraine finish the job and retake their country.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MARCH FOR LIFE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on Friday, as they have done for decades, Americans from around the country—many of them young people—took to the streets of Washington, DC, to march for life. This year, of course, was a little different because for the first time since the march began nearly 50 years ago, pro-lifers marched in a post-Roe America.

On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* and recognized that the Constitution does not contain a right to abortion, that our founding document does not confer a right to deprive one group of citizens of their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness simply because they are small and defenseless. The Supreme Court's decision marked the righting of a constitutional wrong, and it opened up the chance to right a great moral wrong: the legalized killing of unborn Americans.

The Dobbs decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* does not, of course, make abortion illegal, but it does allow State governments and the Federal Government to finally begin to establish meaningful protections for unborn children.

The Dobbs decision marked a major victory for the pro-life movement and for the babies whose lives are in jeopardy from abortion, but the Dobbs decision does not mark an end to the pro-life movement or the March for Life but a new beginning.

The legal fight turns from the courts to Congress and State legislatures—in other words, to the democratic process, where this issue belongs and has always belonged—and the work to change hearts and minds to support moms and babies continues.

The Dobbs decision may have opened the door to meaningful legal protections for unborn Americans, but abortion extremists, who unfortunately count the majority of the Democratic Party among their ranks, are doing everything they can to stand in the way

of these protections. To give just one example of how far the abortion-on-demand caucus has taken things, 2 weeks ago, the House of Representatives took up legislation to ensure that babies who survive abortions and are born alive are guaranteed medical care. Almost every single Democrat in the House of Representatives voted against the legislation. That is 210 men and women who apparently think that living babies who have already been born—already been born—can legitimately be left to die or, I suppose, be killed outright by the abortionist. That is a horrifying position.

There is much work to be done to get to a day when a country that is supposed to be dedicated to the protection of life and liberty actually guarantees the right to life of all Americans, including the most vulnerable and most innocent Americans—our unborn children.

So the March for Life today is more important than ever. The march, of course, is just one small facet of the pro-life movement, which works every day in every State around the country to help provide help and hope to moms in need, but it is nevertheless a vitally important facet because the March for Life provides a public witness to the humanity of the unborn child and to the great injustice that is happening behind closed doors. Abortion happens away from public view, so it can be all too easy to forget that every year in this country, hundreds of thousands of babies are being killed by abortion.

The Guttmacher Institute, a pro-abortion research organization, reported that there were more than 900,000 abortions in 2020—900,000. To put that number in perspective, 900,000 is roughly equivalent to the entire population of the State of South Dakota—the entire population of South Dakota. That is a lot of lives lost, a lot of love lost. Our society is a poorer place without those babies, and the March for Life reminds us of that. It reminds us that every day, thousands of babies lose their lives to abortion. It reminds us of our responsibility to confront this injustice and to work for a day when every child enjoys the right to life and the full protection of the laws.

I am profoundly grateful for all those who spent last Friday marching for life, and for all the men and women and young people in the pro-life movement who work every day around this country to help mothers and their babies and secure legal protections for unborn Americans. I know there are many days when it feels like an uphill battle, but you are all on the right side of history. And I am confident that in the end, life will prevail.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says: See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in Heaven always see the face of my Father.

And, again:

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

There is no greater work than standing up for these defenseless little ones. I pray that God will bless the efforts of all those marching for life and one day soon, every child, born and unborn, will enjoy the full protection of our laws.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Texas.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, we have seen this movie before. The Senate finds itself in familiar territory. The United States narrowly avoided hitting the debt ceiling over a year ago, but now we are staring down the barrel of another debt crisis.

The United States hit the debt limit last Thursday, according to the Secretary of Treasury, and now the Treasury is using what they refer to, euphemistically, as “extraordinary measures” in order to prevent the government from defaulting on its debts. Unless the Congress takes action in the coming months, the American economy will be confronted with an unprecedented crisis.

But here is what I find strange: Despite the fact that we are hurtling toward this disaster, the White House seems completely disinterested in finding a solution. President Biden has drawn a redline. He said: We are not going to negotiate on the debt ceiling. In other words, he expects Congress to raise the debt ceiling with no conditions attached and let this reckless runaway spending and outrageous debt continue to rise.

Now, I don't want to disparage drunken sailors, but it seems to me that that is the model for how the White House is responding.

It is as if you or I were spending beyond our means on our credit card, and then the issuer of the credit card said: You know, you are going to have to pay the money back at some point.

And you say: To heck with that. I want you to raise my credit limit even higher, without any demonstrated means or plan to actually pay the money back.

We know what would happen for you and me is the issuer of the credit card would cancel our credit card, as well it should, if we responded the way that the White House is responding.

So apparently what the administration plans to continue to do is continue this spending bender. It can't cover the current bills—now it is roughly \$30 trillion—and it expects somebody, anybody, maybe nobody, to pay the money back and to deal with this ever-growing national debt.

We know this is an even bigger problem in inflationary times because the more money the Federal Government continues to spend, it is like throwing gasoline on inflation, and consumers have already experienced sky-high prices—some of the highest prices in 40 years—on everything from gasoline to food, to housing, and to the essentials of life.

So why in the world does it make sense for the administration to say: We are not even going to talk; we are not even going to negotiate with the House when it comes to the debt ceiling. We are just going to keep spending as much money as we can, racking up more and more debt.

I know that President Biden has children and grandchildren. Is he concerned for their welfare?

We are writing checks that we are not going to have to pay back, Mr. President. You and I are at the age where this bird is not going to come home to roost in our lifetime, but it will in the lifetimes of our children and grandchildren, including those of President Biden.

So how responsible—or I should say how irresponsible—is it for the President to say: We are just going to keep on keeping on, and we are not even going to talk about what we need to do to deal with this mounting debt. We are not even going to entertain any reasonable ideas or suggestions about how we dig our way out of this hole.

Well, the American people witnessed our Democratic colleagues' wasteful spending over the last 2 years and chose a new direction in the midterm elections that gave Republicans the House after 2 years in which our Democratic colleagues spent \$1.9 trillion on the so-called American Rescue Plan and then another 700-or-so billion dollars on the so-called Inflation Reduction Act, which, by the way, doesn't reduce inflation, but that is what it is called.

In response, the voters gave Republicans the majority in the House. I can only imagine that part of that was a response to what they saw as a reckless spending binge that was going to continue without end if they maintained Democratic control of both Houses and the White House.

So the new reality of divided government means there is only one path we can take to avoiding a debt bomb: Republicans and Democrats have to reach a compromise.

I know the Presiding Officer believes that part of our responsibility is to negotiate and try to come up with common ground where we can and not simply to give the Heisman to one another and say we are not even going to talk.

I don't know why we are here as Members of Congress or why you would want to be President of the United States when you would see such a big problem growing bigger by the day and say: Forget it. I am not talking. I am not going to try to solve the problem. That is somebody else's issue; that is not ours.

I don't believe that is a responsible reaction, and I don't think most Members of Congress think it is a responsible reaction, but that is where we are today, but it needs to change.

As we know, the reality of Republican control of the House means that the negotiation on the debt ceiling—and there has to be a negotiation—in reality, has to be between the House and the White House. Nothing we do here that would get 60 votes would pass the House, I believe. I think that is pretty clear.

But in order to avoid a catastrophe, a bill not only has to pass the House, it needs to get 60 votes in the Senate and the President's signature. Those are the facts.

Now, drawing unreasonable lines in the sand and issuing ultimatums do nothing to solve the problem. Instead of doling out marching orders, the President needs to do his job and listen to what is being proposed and to negotiate a solution.

Nobody I know of thinks that breaching the debt ceiling is an acceptable outcome. If that is true, and I believe it is true, then there is only one alternative: try to work together to come up with some negotiated outcome that avoids breaching the debt ceiling but at the same time provides some answer to those people concerned—and I am one of them—about the ever-increasing debt and what high interest rates that are used to combat inflation are going to mean in terms of how much money we are going to have to pay to service that debt and where that will come—out of things like defense spending or other priorities.

President Biden served as a Member of the Senate for many, many years, and he ran on the promise of continuing his same approach as a dealmaker as President of the United States. In fact, he pointed to his record in the Senate and as Vice President as proof of his ability to reach across the aisle and to strike a compromise.

Now, I know in some quarters “compromise” is a dirty word these days, but there is no other way for us to function here because none of us is a dictator, none of us can say: This is the way it is and actually be able to accomplish what they seek.

Instead, the President does have some record—a good record, in one instance—of doing exactly what he refuses to do today.

As Vice President, Joe Biden helped negotiate the 2011 Budget Control Act, which was the last substantial and meaningful attempt to rein in wasteful Washington spending.

At that point, our economy was still recovering from a recession caused by the financial crisis in 2008. Federal spending soared, revenues plummeted, and it was clear that something—something—had to be done to stave off an even bigger economic crisis.

President Obama was in the White House, and Congress was divided; Democrats controlled the Senate, Re-

publicans controlled the House in 2011. And as it turns out, then-Vice President Biden was a key negotiator. He helped broker the agreement, working principally with then-Senator McCONNELL, the Republican leader, to come up with a bill that passed with strong bipartisan support.

So here we are, a dozen years later, and we find ourselves in a similar condition, without the solution.

Our economy is recovering from an unprecedented pandemic. Federal spending has soared. A large part of that was roughly \$5 trillion that Democrats and Republicans spent together because we saw no alternative but to try to respond to the COVID crisis in a way that addressed public health needs—like coming up with a vaccine—and helped sustain our economy during this crisis.

But then the wheels came off the bipartisanship over the last 2 years, as I mentioned, with the ARP and the IRA, to use a couple of acronyms.

But the American people have nowhere else to turn but here for to us address this problem.

Now, I think it is easy to engage in the blame game, and we do it here all the time. In fact, here in Washington, DC, it is a world-class sport, but at some point you have got to quit pointing the finger and you have got to try to step up and roll up your sleeves and try to solve the immediate problem.

I am not suggesting we can solve all of our problems or even do it permanently, but we can address this current crisis by doing what we are paid to do, what we are elected to do, what we took an oath to do, which is to represent our constituents to the best of our ability.

So this is the time for President Biden to step up. He is President of the United States, and he has done it before when he was Vice President in 2011.

All it would take to start this process is to invite the House, the Senate: Come. Sit around the table to discuss the problem and to try to listen to what potential solutions there might be, just as he promised to do on the campaign trail.

So it is time for him to do what he promised to do all along and lead. Presidents can't be a spectator. They can't sit on the sidelines. Nobody in America expects a President of the United States to do that. And the fact is, the President is not just a leader of the Democratic Party. He is the elected leader of the United States of America—all 330-plus million of us.

So taking a partisan position, knowing the challenges that the House is going to have dealing with a debt ceiling, and just sort of enjoying watching them struggle to deal with this is not an act of courage. It is not an act of leadership. We expect our Presidents to make tough decisions, just as we ourselves are expected to make tough decisions and to try to come up with solutions.

I can't imagine any responsible person in the country, much less in Congress, who would take the position that a clean debt ceiling increase is the way to go. I mentioned that a moment ago.

Who is going to pay the 30 trillion back we already owe? Is the idea that we can just continue to heap debt upon debt upon debt? Does anybody think that is a good idea? How, if we have another fiscal crisis like we had in 2008, would we be able to respond? How, if we had another pandemic, would we be able to respond with this debt handcuffing Congress when we need maximum flexibility to be able to respond?

And I mentioned the interest rates that are higher than they have been in a long time, which continue to eat up more and more tax revenue just to service that debt to pay their bondholders on their investment.

So this is not just a problem that can be punted. This does not call for partisan responses. This calls for statesmanship. It calls for leadership.

And as part of this, we have to look at what got us in this condition in the first place. Why it is that we need to raise the debt ceiling.

We know that America's debt crisis didn't appear overnight. It has been building for decades. And lest anybody believe that I am suggesting that this is strictly a Democratic problem, it has really been something that both political parties have contributed to over time. Somehow, we became anaesthetized or desensitized to the fact that we continue to spend borrowed money. It is true that we point to the various crises we have had, and we say, “Well, we really didn't have any other choice.” But now we do have a choice. We can respond to this responsibly and do our jobs.

Well, we need to get out-of-control spending habits in check. No household, no city council, no county government, no State government could possibly do what the Federal Government is doing. They have to live with a balanced budget. They have to live within their means. I am not suggesting it is going to be easy—because it is not—but it is not optional.

One of the most important things we can do as part of this response is to return to a regular appropriations process in funding the government each year. The idea that we can do this through an omnibus appropriations process, like we were forced to do last year in backing it up to December 23rd, right before Christmas, and threatening a shutdown, is not the right way to do business.

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have 12 separate bills to fund each of the different components of the Federal Government. These bills are supposed to pass both Chambers and be signed into law before the end of the fiscal year, which is September 30. That didn't happen in 2022 or 2021. The Democratic-led Senate did not pass a single appropriations bill,

and I understand why. The majority leader Senator SCHUMER and Speaker PELOSI realized that delaying the appropriations process and not going through this regular order gave them immense power because they could decide what went into that omnibus bill. They could say yes to some and no to others, and they knew that the only alternative would be a government shut-down and that rank-and-file Members of the Senate and the House would be left with no other choice than to vote yes or no.

Congress cannot continue to operate like this. We have to swear off this newfound habit of continuing resolutions and last-minute omnibuses and return to a regular, on-time appropriations process. It is more transparent. It allows every Member of the Congress to participate, to offer amendments, to debate, and to vote—something denied to rank-and-file Members of Congress when you do this through an omnibus bill at the end of the year. But we shouldn't stop there. We need to look at broader reforms to the government's spending habits. The good news is that there are a number of ideas that have been proposed.

Last Congress, Senator ROMNEY, the Senator from Utah, introduced something he calls the TRUST Act, which creates a process to save Social Security and protect this critical lifeline for Americans. Social Security, you might recall, is going to become insolvent in the coming years. This is a responsible way to save Social Security and to address what is, roughly, a part of the two-thirds of the Federal spending. In other words, about a third of it is discretionary spending we appropriate, and the other two-thirds is mandatory, or automatic, spending. I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation, and would encourage the President and our Democratic colleagues to consider it as part of the debt ceiling discussion.

I am also a supporter of a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. As I said, Republicans and Democrats are responsible for where we are today, but it would finally make clear that we have to live under the same sort of spending limits that every family in America has to live under and that every local and State government has to live with—a balanced budget. Now, that is common sense. Families and businesses across the country have no choice but to operate within a balanced budget.

My State of Texas has a balanced budget requirement, and lo and behold, it just started the current legislative session with a \$33 billion surplus. We are looking at a \$30 trillion debt. My State has a \$33 billion surplus in part, I believe, because it is required by law to balance its budget each year.

I have introduced, cosponsored, and voted for balanced budget amendments in the past, and I plan on doing so again this year. That should be part of the conversation.

There is a wide range of ideas from our colleagues that would help the Federal Government get its financial house in order, and I would hope that the President would take these ideas and his responsibility seriously. No matter how inconvenient this may be for President Biden, we are operating under a divided government. The “drunken sailor” approach may have worked when the Democrats controlled both Houses of Congress, but it won't succeed now. It is time for the administration to sober up and get serious about bipartisan solutions. It is the only path out of this mess.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask for permission to complete my remarks before the recess.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ABORTION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 50 years ago this last Sunday, the Supreme Court ruled that reproductive healthcare in America is a constitutionally protected right and that Americans have the freedom to make the most personal decision imaginable: when—and whether—to start a family. The case was called *Roe v. Wade*.

For those who were alive when it was decided, we remember what it meant for millions of Americans: the freedom to make their own reproductive health decisions. Remember, at the time *Roe* was decided in 1973, our Nation had a long, long way to go in living up to the promise of equal justice under the law. As just one example, women were often required, at that time in history, to ask their husbands for permission to apply for credit cards. In many banks, widowers and divorced women had to bring along a man who would cosign for a credit card. Can you imagine that?

Fifty years later, we still have a long way to go, of course, but *Roe* was a breakthrough. It was a vision of an America that could be looking to the future of opportunity.

Well, today, sadly, marks a very different anniversary. You see, it was 7 months ago today when six rightwing, judicial activists on the Supreme Court sent us back in time. Of course, I am referring to the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*—the crowning achievement of the Republican-led, decades-long campaign to overturn *Roe* and abolish reproductive rights in America.

The *Dobbs* ruling is one of the most irresponsible and dangerous decisions

ever handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court. It ripped away a constitutional right from individuals, handing it over to politicians in suits.

With the *Dobbs* decision, the ultra-conservative majority not only overturned a nearly 50-year-old precedent that had been reaffirmed many, many times, they twisted the facts to reach the outcome they wanted.

What do I mean by that? Well, in his majority opinion, Justice Alito claimed that abortion cannot be constitutionally protected because it is not “deeply rooted in the Nation's history and tradition.” He is wrong because whatever you think about abortion, it has deep roots in our country. As the dissenting Justices in *Dobbs* wrote, “embarrassingly for the majority—early law in fact does provide some support for abortion rights.”

The dissent noted that common law authorities did not treat abortion as a crime before the point of fetal movement in the womb—also known as quickening. And as Justice Alito himself conceded, historians dispute whether prequickening abortions were punished before the 19th century.

So there is no credibility to Justice Alito's argument for overturning *Roe*. It wasn't originalism by any stretch. It wasn't textualism. It was an ideologically motivated outcome based on historical cherry-picking.

Someone asked the question the other day: After this decision, should the Justices be asked to wear red and blue robes instead of black robes?

Over the past 7 months, Republican lawmakers picked up right where the Thomas-Alito Court left off. In State after State, they have ripped away reproductive rights from millions of Americans.

Overturning *Roe v. Wade* has unleashed a healthcare crisis in our country. In just 7 months, 24 States have banned or severely restricted access to abortion or are preparing to do so. Many of these bans provide no exceptions, even for rape and incest victims, and many are insufficient in protecting the health and lives of mothers. And all of these bans have added layers and layers of government bureaucracy for women seeking emergency care.

If these Republican lawmakers have actually listened to all of the medical professionals who sounded the alarm on overturning *Roe*, if these lawmakers had actually listened to all of the Americans who took to the streets in protest or the millions of voters who rejected their radical agenda, then maybe you would understand the simple, indisputable truth: You cannot ban abortion out of existence.

The only thing these laws have changed, if anything, is pushing women into dangerous and deadly situations. We have already seen the barbaric consequences in these Republican abortion bans. And they haven't just endangered the lives of women living in red States; they have put every woman in danger.

Christina Zielke is one of those women. She recently shared her story

on NPR. This past July, Christina and her husband were overjoyed when they discovered she was pregnant. It was their first pregnancy. But that joy turned to sorrow after the first ultrasound. The doctors couldn't detect a heartbeat, and they concluded it was a miscarriage.

When Christina asked the doctor, "What do I do next," the doctor recommended giving her body time to pass the pregnancy tissue—a process that can take days or even weeks. So Christina and her husband decided to wait and move on with their lives.

Soon after that appointment, the two of them drove from their home in Washington, DC, to Ohio to attend a family wedding. But during the drive, Christina started bleeding. She assumed her body had finally passed the pregnancy tissue. But later, in the middle of the night, she started bleeding again. It was serious.

It was at that time that Christina and her husband, at the advice of a nurse, went to an emergency room in Painesville, OH. Now, remember, Christina's doctor had already told her that her pregnancy ended in a miscarriage. But when she arrived at that Ohio hospital, the medical staff refused to provide her any care because they were afraid of violating Ohio's new abortion ban.

So while Christina was still in danger, still bleeding, and carrying a fetus with no heartbeat, the hospital discharged her and refused to treat her. She objected, even showing them her records confirming the miscarriage. She was ignored and sent home.

Hours later, she returned to that same ER. By that point, she had lost so much blood she had lost consciousness. The paramedics had to use a sheet to pull her limp body out of a bathtub and onto a stretcher. Christina's family thought she was going to die. And let's be blunt: The only reason her life was in peril was because of Ohio's State law banning abortion.

This is America's post-Roe reality: women denied urgent care because doctors and nurses are afraid of breaking State laws. Ohio's abortion ban subjects healthcare providers who violate it to felony charges, up to a year in prison, loss of medical licenses, and fines up to \$20,000. The law is so unclear in Ohio that even medical professionals struggle to navigate its narrow exceptions.

When you hear stories like that by Christina, imagine if it was a member of your family—your wife, the mother of your children, people who want to live desperately and simply need the healthcare to make it happen—it is really no surprise that Americans are fleeing red States to access essential healthcare in blue States.

My State of Illinois, for instance, has become a leader on reproductive freedom—a so-called oasis. Every single State that we border has either restricted abortion or abandoned it outright. For women living in the Mid-

west, our reproductive health facilities are indispensable. Look at the numbers. Before Roe was overturned, only 6 percent of women seeking abortions at Illinois Planned Parenthood facilities traveled from out of State—6 percent. Since the Dobbs decision, that number has jumped to 30 percent.

And I want to commend our State's leadership because they stepped in to provide care for women who have been betrayed by their own States. Earlier this month, Governor Pritzker signed a bill into law protecting women traveling to Illinois for reproductive care. Sadly, these efforts to protect reproductive freedom have also made Illinois providers a target. Just 2 days ago, after Governor Pritzker signed a bill into law, someone firebombed a Planned Parenthood clinic in Peoria—a clinic that doesn't even perform surgical abortions.

In post-Roe America, the mere act of seeking reproductive advice and care—even for a procedure as simple as a Pap smear—has taken on new risks. Lawmakers on both sides need to condemn this and any form of politically motivated violence against any person or entity.

If there is any doubt that the Dobbs decision has unleashed chaos, consider the impact on maternal health outcomes. Even before Roe was overturned, our Nation had the highest maternal mortality rate in the developed world—America, the highest maternal mortality rate in the developed world. And as of 2020, those death rates are more than 60 percent higher in States with abortion restrictions.

This is not a problem without a solution: Studies show that more than four in five pregnancy-related deaths are preventable. These mothers can be saved. And one way to prevent them is by expanding access to postpartum health coverage. That is why I have worked with Illinois Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY to pass a law that gives States the option to expand health coverage under Medicaid from 60 days postpartum to a full year. We led this effort because in our State, one-third of pregnancy-related deaths happen after 60 days postpartum.

So for States that have now outlawed abortion, you would imagine the first thing they would do is to take advantage of this new benefit and expand health coverage for its expecting mothers on Medicaid. That sounds like a no-brainer, right? Apparently not. Today, there are 15 States that have not extended Medicaid postpartum coverage, and 12 of these States have also passed laws restricting abortion. If they are truly dedicated to the new mother and her baby, why wouldn't they give them healthcare coverage for a full year after the baby is born to save their lives and the babies' lives?

So if you are a woman living in a State like Idaho or South Dakota, you can be forced to carry a pregnancy to term, but once you have had your baby, those States—Idaho and South Da-

kota—refuse to cover your healthcare during the most critical, dangerous postpartum period.

Let's get real. There is no world in which this position can be described as "pro-life."

We in the Senate can make a difference for all the women in America who have been abandoned by their States, and we can do it by restoring and codifying the right to reproductive freedom by passing pro-family policies, like the MOMMA's Act, which mandates Medicaid expansion and postpartum coverage.

Unfortunately, it seems the new MAGA majority in the House has other plans in mind. Just this past week, Majority Leader STEVE SCALISE pledged to a group of anti-choice activists that the overturning of Roe was "only the first phase of this battle." Those are his words. His Republican colleagues have already made good on it. Less than 1 month into the new Congress, House Republicans have introduced a dozen anti-abortion bills.

Here is my promise: Every one of those bills is destined to fail if it comes to the Senate. They are going nowhere because this majority and President Biden understand that all Americans deserve reproductive rights. And until we have a Congress and Supreme Court willing to protect those rights, we need to do everything in our power to stand against this extremist, anti-choice agenda.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:47 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJÁN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

(The remarks of Mr. BARRASSO pertaining to the introduction of S. 31 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BARRASSO. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. CARDIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 53 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. CARDIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Mississippi.

MARCH FOR LIFE

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, this past Friday, tens of thousands of pro-life Americans came to Washington, DC, to march for the 50th consecutive year to be a voice for the voiceless. They marched because the pro-life movement did not end with the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* last summer. They marched because the end of *Roe v. Wade* represents a new beginning.

Thanks to the Supreme Court's decision in Mississippi's *Dobbs* case, for the first time in 50 years, the fate of the lives of millions of unborn children now rests not in the hands of unelected Federal judges but in the American people and their elected representatives.

I am grateful for the more than a dozen States that have answered the call, including my State of Mississippi, where babies in the womb are now legally protected even at their earliest and most vulnerable stages. But the fight for life also continues here in our Nation's Capital and here in the U.S. Senate. That is why it makes sense that, this year, the March for Life's route ended not at the U.S. Supreme Court, as in years past, but here in Congress.

As the chairman of the Senate Pro-Life Caucus, I am committed to fight for compassionate legislation to protect unborn children and their mothers. We will be a firewall against the radical abortion agenda of Senate Democrats and hold the Biden administration accountable for its reckless and illegal pro-abortion policies.

The contrast could not be clearer. Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that would guarantee the same basic medical care to babies who are born alive after an attempted abortion as would be given to any other baby born in any other circumstance. I am appalled that 210 House Democrats voted against this humane legislation. Apparently, even infanticide is no longer a bridge too far.

In addition, this month, the Biden administration's FDA rubberstamped the reckless distribution of chemical abortion drugs by mail and telemedicine, as well as retail pharmacies, without ever seeing a doctor in person. This decision turns retail pharmacies and post offices into abortion clinics.

The FDA's action provides no safeguards to screen by ultrasound for dangerous ectopic pregnancies and abandons pregnant women to suffering life-threatening complications alone. These can include severe bleeding, infection, potential surgical intervention, and even death.

The FDA's promotion of dangerous do-it-yourself abortions is not only unsafe, it is illegal. Specifically, the decision violates longstanding Federal criminal laws that clearly prohibit the mailing of abortion drugs. This decision puts the profits and political agenda of the abortion industry over the science and clear evidence that abortion drugs present grave dangers to pregnant mothers and certainly their unborn babies.

Later this week, I will introduce the SAVE Moms and Babies Act to reverse the FDA's reckless and illegal action and, at minimum, restore the basic health and safety requirement for these dangerous abortion drugs, which should never have been approved.

The issue of abortion gets to the heart about what it means to be human. Who counts as one of us? Why can brutally killing a baby before birth be justified simply because the baby is inconvenient, imperfect, unwanted, unplanned, or dependent on her mother?

Rather than answer these questions about the humanity of the child in the womb—the child sucking her thumb, the child whose heart is beating, and the child whose sonogram pictures are cherished as proof of life—the abortion industry wants you to look away from the baby.

Over the past year, we have witnessed millions of dollars of political advertisement spent to promote lies and fearmongering about the pro-life movement and pro-life laws and that try to pit unborn children against their own mothers.

As a mother, a woman, and a Senator, I know we must refute these lies, because each unborn child is not a threat but a blessing, a unique and unrepeatable individual created in the image of God.

In addition, the pro-life movement cares for both pregnant moms and their unborn babies. More than 2,700 pregnancy centers across the country provide critical medical and material support for women and families facing unplanned pregnancies. Several of my colleagues have already introduced commonsense measures to support pregnant moms and families, including through pregnancy centers.

As we move on from this year's March for Life and into a post-*Roe* era, we will never rest and we will never stop fighting until every unborn child is protected under our laws from the lethal violence of abortion.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

MARCH FOR LIFE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, we are in a historic season as a country. We are pausing to ask ourselves a question that quite frankly we have not really asked ourselves in a long time: When does life begin?

It is not just philosophical. It is not just theological. It is not just sci-

entific. It is personal, as each person has to come to a decision: When does life begin?

And when the Supreme Court made the *Dobbs* decision last summer, that actually put America back in the position that it had been in historically. Our Nation is 234 years old, and for 185 of those years, each State passed State laws to be able to determine the decision about this issue of when does life begin.

So the *Dobbs* decision was not a radical decision. It is the typical decision for Americans, quite frankly, for 185 of our 234 years. But it doesn't settle the issue of abortion. Abortion is still legal in America. As much as there is all the noise around the country right now that abortion has somehow gone away, it certainly has not. Abortion is still all over the country.

But it has pushed Americans, and it has pushed Americans specifically on this one issue: When does life begin?

Quite frankly, I have had fascinating conversations with people over the past 8 months that they had never actually contemplated this issue, that they had never stopped to be able to think about it. They just said: Abortion is legal. Abortion is legal. It is just a woman's choice, a woman's choice, a woman's choice, and I don't want to think about it.

But when the decision came down, a lot of people had to stop and say: When does life begin? Is it at birth? Is it after birth? Is it 10 minutes before birth? Is it a month before birth? Is it 2 months before birth?

Quite frankly, I have had this conversation with a lot of folks, and some folks have told me: Well, it is at viability.

And I say: OK. Define viability for me, because viability in 1973, when the Court was struggling with *Roe v. Wade*, was very different than viability now. Medical science has advanced tremendously. So is viability 26 weeks or is it at 21 weeks of gestation? And if it is at 21 weeks, what is the difference between 20 weeks and 19 weeks? What is the difference between 18 weeks?

I look at these two pictures right here of this child—this one is out of the womb, and this one is 5 months earlier—and I ask the simple question: What is the difference between these two pictures of this child?

The only difference between that sonogram picture in the womb and that child outside of the womb is time. That is it.

The same DNA is in this child as in this child—the same parents, the same development. Everything is the same. The only difference is time.

I am 5 months older than I was 5 months ago because I have aged 5 months. So did that child from that moment.

So my question is very simple: When is a child a child? When does life begin? Is this one not alive and this one is alive simply because he is 5 months older? When is a child a child?

For 50 years, there have been a group of folks—this year there were tens of thousands—who gather out on the Mall just to be able to celebrate every single child. They have done it now for five decades, since the *Roe v. Wade* decision came down. They have gathered on the Mall, and they just said: We believe every child is valuable—every child. There aren't some children who are disposable and some children who are valuable. We think every child is valuable.

Now, that is not a radical concept. I have folks who yell and scream at me, quite frankly, and say: A woman has the right to be able to choose.

And I ask just the very simple question of them, in great respect: Has the right to choose to be able to take the life of a child at what age?

Because that child is valuable and so is that child, because it is the same child, just at a different age.

I celebrate the folks who have for five decades gathered on The Mall and have marched for life and have said: We will not forget the value of every single child, because tens of millions of children have died in this country in the last 50 years after the *Roe v. Wade* decision.

While abortion is still available in America, everyone is having to pause and ask a simple question: What do I believe about life? Not what is convenient; what do I believe about life?

I have been very outspoken on this floor about my frustration with the Biden administration. I have not held back on this because they are the most pro-abortion Presidency in American history. They actively work on increasing the number of abortions in America, and I find that not only appalling, I find that painful, that we as a nation have a policy of finding ways to increase the death of children. That is not who we should be as a nation. We should be working to be able to protect the life of every single child.

The most basic science that anyone will work through is, if you look at this child in the womb, there is no difference in this child and this child outside the womb. That is the most basic of science.

If you want to look at science, look at science, but then ask yourself the personal question as well: When does life begin?

The argument about abortion—it is not just a legal argument. Everyone wants to take it to a legal issue, quite frankly, because this body is a legal body, but the issue of abortion is not just a legal issue, and it is not just about making abortion illegal in the country. I would tell you, I am working to make abortion unthinkable in this country because we look past the convenience and look at this child's face and say: Why does that child not deserve life like every one of us? Because at its most basic level, there is no difference between any one of us in this room and when we were at this stage right here in our mother's womb except for time.

So I ask this body a simple question: When does life begin, and are some children really disposable and some children are valuable? That is the question each of us needs to decide, and I am proud to stand with those who have marched for 50 years to say children are valuable, all of them—all of them. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). The Senator from Kansas.

MARCH FOR LIFE

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, last Friday, during the annual March for Life, it was once again encouraging to see tens of thousands of young Americans travel to the National Mall to show their support for the most important human rights issue of our time: the right to life.

This year, we celebrate the 50th year that the March for Life has taken place, marking a significant, multigenerational milestone for this celebration of the sanctity of life. The fact that this event is now in its 50th year is a testament to the truth and justice of our mission.

I thank and congratulate everyone who kept this movement alive for the past five decades, and I especially want to thank all the brave pro-life Americans who made their voices heard as part of the March for Life.

For half a century now, Americans have brought their voices to Washington to halt the mass elective abortions of perhaps a million unborn American lives every year in our Nation.

Abortion is not a political issue to me; it is a human rights issue. And this is not a political battle we fight but, rather, the tip of the spear in a spiritual battle for the heart and soul of this Nation.

This year's momentous March for Life truly was a celebration, as our Nation's Supreme Court has finally freed us from the undemocratic, pro-abortion decision forced on the American people in 1973. My prayer is that our God will heal the emotional and physical wounds that were ripped open across this Nation by this ruling.

As we celebrate this victory for life, all of us should pause and thank God for giving us a majority of Supreme Court Justices who had the courage to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. This Supreme Court, by an overwhelming 6-to-3 ruling, defied the left's mob-style intimidation tactics, and in too many extreme cases, they overcame even the vile threats on their lives as well as on their families' safety and privacy.

The Court's majority stuck to constitutional principles and cast aside the pro-abortion status quo even in the face of threats by the current Senate majority party and its current majority leader. The way our Justices stood up to the opposition represents true leadership and the very best of America.

Let us commend our Republican Senate leader and the Senators who fought

for the lives of the unborn, who, when we had control of the White House and the Senate, had the courage, the fortitude, the willpower, and the know-how to shepherd three principled Justices through the confirmation process and ascend to the highest Court in the land.

This tremendous lifegiving decision also would not have happened without Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch and her team, who championed their State's pro-life law. They forever etched their place in history.

The rights and lives of millions of American human beings are now protected as a result of the Dobbs decision.

As an obstetrician, I had the honor and privilege to deliver over 5,000 babies, and I want all those who stood tall in the March for Life last Friday to know that, just like I fought for those babies in the delivery room, I am going to continue the fight beside you to protect the sanctity of life and to show our Nation that Congress values these precious lives as well.

At the Federal level, we, of course, have much more work to do on this issue. We must continue to ensure taxpayer dollars do not fund abortions so millions of Americans are not forced to violate our own beliefs.

We must combat this administration's effort to remove conscience protections for medical professionals—doctors, nurses, ultrasound techs, and so many others—who object to participating in abortion.

Perhaps most urgently, we must reimplement safety restrictions on the abortion pill. This unprecedented mass distribution of this pill by mail and over the counter that this administration is pushing will lead to thousands of women using it incorrectly, causing medical emergencies, possibly deaths and fetal malformations. If you don't believe this can happen, I just encourage you to spend some time in our emergency rooms, where I and many other doctors treat numerous women suffering complications from the abortion pill. Most of these patients are completely unaware of the potential side effects. Many are misdiagnosed or perhaps victims of just a horrible guess at the gestational age of the unborn baby.

But I think it is also important that we as a party and Congress also work to further support legislation to provide resources to moms and babies in need. This help would include more access to long-term nutritional, educational, economic, and social support, as well as healthcare. We must find more compassionate and effective ways to better encourage pregnant women who are contemplating abortion to choose life instead. We need to open the doors to pregnancy crisis centers for assistance throughout and, very importantly, after the pregnancy. Despite violent attacks, acts of vandalism, and harmful misinformation directed at these centers, they continue to provide

critically needed services to women all across this country.

I am also committed to dispelling the left's malicious lies about ectopic pregnancies in the aftermath of the Dobbs decision. As someone who understands the science and practiced obstetrics for over 25 years and, frankly, treated hundreds of women with ectopic pregnancies, I want to state that I agree with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. We always have and always will support the treatment of women suffering from the always-life-threatening condition of an ectopic pregnancy. The radical activists, who wildly claim ectopic pregnancies will be left untreated because of this Court decision, are simply misinformed and dangerously practice fearmongering tactics. For a physician to not treat ectopic pregnancies would be, No. 1, unethical, as well as, No. 2, below the standard of care for every community in America.

Let me close by saying once again, thanks to all of you, the tens of thousands of Americans who participated in the 50th March for Life, for courageously and tirelessly fighting for life. Each and every one of you is my encouragement. You give me the strength and hope to wake up every day and join my fellow pro-life Senators and millions of pro-life Americans to fight to protect the sanctity of life. Your being here, praying together, marching side by side, arm to arm, you strengthen my resolve, and you can count on me to tirelessly fight to defend and secure the right to life for all human beings.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

MARCH FOR LIFE

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in a discussion about the right to life and what happened last week in Washington, DC, when tens of thousands of Americans of all ages, races, and religious backgrounds traveled to our Nation's Capitol to march for life.

This March for Life was particularly special since it was the first March for Life after the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision, which made this march a special celebration recognizing the unborn lives saved as a result of that decision.

I was proud to see many North Carolinians represent our State in the march by participating and fighting for the young babies who do not have a voice. But for the voices expressed in the March for Life, they would be unheard.

In January 1974, a brave group of committed pro-life leaders led the first March for Life to advocate for a solution to the Supreme Court's judicial activism, in my opinion, in the Roe v. Wade case.

This year, the March for Life was not only an event to advocate for the unborn, it was a celebration of the end of Roe and the return of pro-life policy-

making to the States and, I believe, to the Congress.

The Dobbs decision is historic and affirms my belief that all life is sacred. Each State government and its duly elected representatives now make the determination about what types of laws they wish to have in place. I, for one, continue to advocate for commonsense measures that the majority of Americans support, like protecting life at crucial points of development and prohibiting horrendous procedures like partial-birth abortion.

While it is good for us to celebrate the Dobbs decision, as Senators, we must remember that the fight for life in the United States is far from finished. Our work to enact pro-life policies must continue if we are to be a voice for the voiceless.

I believe Congress must vigorously pursue efforts to defend the sanctity of life. Some have said since the Dobbs decision that this is something that only States should weigh into, and I respectfully disagree.

Just 2 weeks ago, I was thrilled to see the House pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which I am committed to supporting. This legislation would protect newborns who survive failed abortions, born alive, requiring the same degree of care as a newborn baby. I urge Leader SCHUMER to bring this commonsense bill up to the floor for a vote as soon as possible.

Last Congress, I cosponsored dozens of pro-life bills. This Congress, I joined multiple bills to shape Federal policies toward protecting life. This includes proposals that would prohibit the use of Federal funds for abortion and prohibit Planned Parenthood from using Federal funding for abortions.

When I served as speaker of the house in North Carolina, we passed several bills to protect the unborn and to defend life, and it was widely supported by the diverse State of North Carolina, which is by no means a red State. It is a blue State, maybe a purple State. But when you talk about what we were trying to accomplish, the majority of North Carolinians supported it.

I ultimately believe that the States are best situated to set policies to support mothers and to protect life. That is why it is critical that pro-life advocates contact their State legislators and their Governors to ensure that life-saving protections are enacted to defend the unborn in their respective States.

I am committed to continuing the effort to support life. I am a lifetime pro-life Catholic. I make no apology for it because we are the voice in the absence of that baby yet to be born, and we have to continue to fight for them. I encourage my Senate colleagues to join me in doing this.

Mr. President, I just want to say that I hope that on this issue, like so many that we tackled in the last Congress, thorny issues, that everybody thought nothing could get done—I really hope

that we can get people in a room and recognize that we can come together on some basic tenets, get rid of the voices at either end of the spectrum that are preventing us from making progress on this important issue, because, literally, the lives of the unborn—their lives, their opportunity is at stake.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, thank you for your leadership and your desire to continue to lead in our country.

Everything I do here, everything that most of us do here, I think, should come back to the dignity of work—the idea that hard work should pay off for everyone, no matter who you are, no matter whether you punch a clock or swipe a badge, no matter if you are management or labor, no matter if you are self-employed, where you live, what kind of work you do. When work has dignity—by definition, the “dignity of work,” brought to us originally by Leo XIII, “the labor Pope” of 120 years ago—with the Presiding Officer's faith, he knows about Leo XII—and brought to us by Dr. King—when work has dignity, people have a secure retirement. It means you count on Social Security and Medicare. It means we protect people's pensions. It means the VA continues paying benefits that you earned if you were exposed to Agent Orange or to these massive football field-size burn pits. It means people make enough money for retirement and for a rainy day.

It is why in this body, just 2 years ago—in March, slightly fewer than 2 years ago—we saved the pensions of 100,000 Ohioans, tens of thousands in Virginia, a million around the country, people who worked their whole lives. They earned the pension and the peace of mind in retirement for themselves and their families.

Think about what that means.

It is why we are still fighting for the Delphi retirees who, again, lost their pensions through no fault of theirs. It is why we will always—always, always—fight back against attacks on Social Security, attacks on Medicare, and efforts to privatize the Veterans' Administration.

A secure retirement should never be a partisan issue. On August 14, 1935, President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act. Ever since that time, it should not—it was partisan then. Most Democrats were for it, and most Republicans were, I will just say, less for it. But it has become a partisan issue far too often.

Social Security and Medicare are two of the most popular, most unifying institutions of the country. It is our government's promise to working men and women, a promise that they will be able to retire with dignity. You pay in every paycheck—twice a month, whatever—and you are guaranteed that benefit.

Support for Social Security cuts across party lines. It cuts across racial lines. It cuts across geographic lines. Americans not only want to protect Social Security and Medicare—that goes without saying, although many of my colleagues want to undermine it—but they want to make these programs stronger.

But that is what Republicans—I don't want to make this into a partisan issue, but it has been, unfortunately. It is not what the Republicans in Congress want to do.

I want every American to understand that Republicans in Congress are planning to hold your Social Security hostage. They have done it several different ways over the years. So let's talk about it today.

They have threatened not to raise the debt limit. Raising the debt limit sounds complicated and sounds expensive. It is not. Raising the debt limit, said another way, is about paying our bills, paying the bills our Nation owes and keeping our word. We did this three times under Donald Trump with no drama. Their refusal to pay our bills undermines U.S. global leadership.

For seniors, it would be a disaster. It means that Social Security checks would stop going out. It would mean that seniors won't get their Social Security checks if we don't keep our promises and pay our bills. It is the first way this year that Republicans will attack Social Security.

Second, they want to take this country and the American economy to the brink of default and then leverage their fiscal lunacy to cut your Social Security. Ten years ago, 15 years ago, Republicans didn't act this way. It is this new—just going down the hall here, you can see the other place, the place where the other ones work. The people who are the most extreme in that body clearly are trying to bring this country to the brink. They are willing to take the U.S. economy hostage and only agree to pay our bills—bills we have all run up, including a huge part of that with President Trump and the Republican Congress with the big tax cut giveaway to the richest people in this country—they are willing to take the economy hostage and raise the debt limit if Congress cuts Social Security. The only way they are going to pay their bills is if Congress cuts Social Security. That is what they are saying.

Let that sink in. Congressional Republicans intend to use the fact that we need to pay our bills, pay our bills that already have accrued—to pay our bills is their tool for cutting Social Security. You might disguise their policy as a commission. Every time you hear the word “commission” and then they describe the next part of the sentence to reform Social Security, you know what it means. Their plan is to leverage this: We are going to not pay our bills to cut your Social Security.

Finally, there is privatizing Social Security. The details differ. The terms may change, but the goal is the same:

to kill off Social Security by shrinking it and privatizing it and undermining public support.

It doesn't matter if you voted for this Republican or that Republican who sits at these desks or Senator CASEY or Senator WYDEN or Senator KAINE. Overwhelmingly, people who go to the polls and vote support Social Security and don't want Social Security privatized.

What is happening is nothing less than an attempt to go back on the bedrock promise made to America's middle class that Social Security would be there for them.

On August 14, 1935, Franklin Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act. In 1940 or 1941, for a woman in New Hampshire, I think her first check was \$24. I believe she was a retired schoolteacher and got the first Social Security check.

It doesn't matter to them, to Social Security beneficiaries, about all the politics here. But we know that for Social Security checks, people paid into the program their whole entire working lives. Our government should work for people who paid into Social Security, not against them.

When work has dignity, we honor the retirement security people earned. I urge my Republican colleagues in this body—colleagues, I point out, with healthcare and retirement plans; all of us with healthcare and retirement plans paid for by taxpayers—our retirements aren't at risk. Why should it be for Social Security beneficiaries? None of my colleagues over here are saying: Let's privatize the retirement system for Members of Congress.

They never say that. They say: Let's privatize Social Security. Let's privatize the Veterans' Administration in Richmond or Cleveland or Cincinnati. Let's privatize Medicare.

They never talk about privatizing their benefits.

But think about the generations of Americans who have benefited from Social Security and the generations to come relying on the promise of Social Security and Medicare.

For the last part of my remarks, Mr. President, I introduced a resolution affirming the Senate's commitment, last year, to protecting and expanding Social Security.

Dozens of my colleagues got on this bill, including, I believe, the Presiding Officer—a resolution affirming the Senate's commitment to protecting and expanding Social Security. But you know what? Not one Republican signed onto this resolution; not one re-committed to the promise of the American people that if you work hard all of your life, Social Security will be there for you.

What is more American, what is more basic, what is more family-oriented than: I pay into Social Security my whole life, I pay into Medicare, and if I get prematurely sick or disabled or when I retire, why would we not honor that commitment? Why do some Mem-

bers of Congress want to privatize this program? Because we know what happens when they are privatized. The investors come in, the banks come in and end up undermining it, and there is less dollars—fewer dollars available and less public support.

Americans shouldn't have to worry that politicians secure with government pensions are going to try to take away their retirement benefits that they earn. I will again introduce that resolution—probably next month—affirming the Senate's commitment to protecting and expanding Social Security, opposed to privatization.

I will again ask all my colleagues to sign on. I assume we will get many. I am hopeful this time—hopeful—that some Republicans join us. Republican seniors in Ohio would support it. It is just, their elected officials so often don't.

People shouldn't have to worry if politicians who put our entire economy at risk by using this debt limit fight—this “are we going to pay our bills or not” fight—to cut social security, but here we are.

I urge my colleagues to do the patriotic duty to raise the debt limit, without condition, without threatening economic calamity. And I ask that you work with us to do what the American people overwhelmingly want: protect and expand Social Security and Medicare and VA benefits.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Georgia.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S.J. RES. 4 and H.R. 22

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I understand that there are two measures at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the measures by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 4) removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

A bill (H.R. 22) to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from sending petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to China, and for other purposes.

Mr. WARNOCK. I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard. The measures will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d-276g, as amended, appoints the following Senator as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group conference during the 118th Congress: the Honorable AMY KLOBUCHAR of Minnesota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to the provisions of 20 U.S.C., sections 42 and 43, appoints the following Senators as Members of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: the Honorable CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO of Nevada (reappointment) and the Honorable GARY PETERS of Michigan.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK LEAHY AND TIM RIESER

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an excerpt of this article by George Black, honoring the legacies of Senator Patrick Leahy and Tim Rieser, that was originally published in the *New Republic* on December 19, 2022.

I ask unanimous consent that the following excerpt honoring Senator Patrick Leahy and Tim Rieser be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the *New Republic*, Dec. 19, 2022]

FOR PATRICK LEAHY, THE VIETNAM WAR IS
FINALLY ENDING
(By George Black)

For 33 years, the retiring Vermont senator and a top aide have quietly but doggedly been working to bind the many wounds of a war that touched the lives of nearly every Vietnamese family. This is what public service is.

It was a late afternoon in mid-November, with the nip of early winter in the air, when I visited the Russell Senate Office Building to meet with Vermont Senator Pat Leahy in his spacious yet surprisingly intimate office, with a sofa and chairs arranged near the fireplace. An aide squatted down beside us to add another log to the fire. Leahy's wife of 60 years, Marcelle, joined us, carrying a large bouquet of flowers. The couple still convey a strong sense of the people they were in the early years of their marriage—he a small-town lawyer, she a nurse at a local hospital. Leahy showed off photos of their three children and five grandchildren. “I’m not someone who wants to hang the walls with photos of 50 great and famous people I’ve known,” he said. “I’d much rather be surrounded by pictures of family.”

Leahy, who entered the Senate in 1975 and leaves it after 48 years in January 2023, is the body's longest-serving sitting member. To most Americans, he is probably best known for his decades on the Senate Judiciary Committee and his opposition to the drive by conservative activists to transform the federal courts into an instrument of their ideological agenda. But I'd come to talk to him about something different, something that rarely if ever makes the cable news circuit: the war in Vietnam, the wounds it had left, and the part he had played in healing them. He's never seen this as a partisan issue, just a matter of simple human decency, being one of those, like Joe Biden, who mourn a lost era of comity in the Senate, in which political adversaries could still reach with respect across the gulf of their disagreements. His work in Vietnam has always been underpinned by that vision, and I wanted to ask him whether, in our current divided state, he could imagine it continuing after his retirement from the Senate at the age of 82.

Vision alone doesn't get you far in Washington. It has to be turned into legislation, and legislation into dollars and cents. In addition to his role on the Judiciary Committee, Leahy also chairs the Appropriations Committee, which is where the purse strings are untied, and, as he wrote in his recently published memoir, *The Road Taken*, “few people really ever sifted through the line items to understand what we were doing was actually making American foreign policy.” It's also why you can't talk about his work in Vietnam without also talking about his senior aide, Tim Rieser, who has been with him since 1985, and who will retire from his current role in January. Despite his bland-sounding job title—Democratic clerk for the Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations—Rieser has been the master of its arcane mechanics. “A dog with a bone,” Leahy calls him. Given a problem to solve, “He would not stop until every last drop of marrow and morsel of sinew had been licked clean.”

Since 1989, as the United States and Vietnam were taking their first baby steps toward reconciliation, Leahy and Rieser have channeled hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to Vietnam, forcing the United States to take responsibility for what former Senate leader Mike Mansfield once called the “great outflow of devastation” from the war: the bodies broken by unexploded bombs; the lives blighted by exposure to Agent Orange; the ongoing threat from “hot spots” contaminated by dioxin, its toxic by-product; and now, at last, some long-overdue aid to help Vietnam recover and identify the remains of its war dead. In the process, they have built the scaffolding of a new relationship, in which bitter enemies, in one of the stranger twists of geopolitics, have been transformed into close working partners and military allies.

Leahy and Rieser have faced no small number of obstacles along the way. For many years, embittered American veterans and recalcitrant anti-Communists in Congress opposed any hint of reconciliation with Vietnam. Progress was often slowed by suspicions on the Vietnamese side and by cumbersome bureaucracies in both governments, and State Department and Pentagon lawyers remain wary to this day of any humanitarian effort that implies an admission of liability. But as Rieser often says, when you run into an obstacle, you redefine it as a problem to be solved, and that process starts with all parties identifying their common interest in finding a solution. There are always common interests; you just have to look for them.

Full article at: <https://newrepublic.com/article/169542/patrick-leahy-vietnam-war-finally-ending>.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I rise to provide a brief statement on the vote on the confirmation of the nomination of Brendan Owens, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense. I was unable to attend the vote because inclement weather in Maine caused my flight to be canceled. Had I been here on Monday, January 23, 2023, I would have voted in support of the nomination.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOXROFT ACADEMY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, Foxcroft Academy in Dover-Foxcroft,

ME, was established on January 30, 1823, with a mission of bringing quality education to pioneer families in our new State. On this 200th anniversary, it is a pleasure to congratulate this outstanding school for its dedication to excellence and opportunity.

The history of Foxcroft Academy demonstrates that commitment. It was the first school chartered in Maine after we achieved statehood 3 years earlier. It is one of the oldest private day and boarding preparatory high schools in America.

That charter was the result of extraordinary vision. The school's namesake, Colonel John Foxcroft, born to a prominent Massachusetts family, was successful in business and amassed a considerable fortune. His wealth enabled him to acquire thousands of acres of prime timberland in the wilderness of Maine. With the growing cities of early America nearby, he could have exploited this natural resource and added greatly to his fortune.

Instead, he chose to offer opportunity. He opened his land up to those less fortunate; he encouraged settlers to come to clear farmland, construct mills, start businesses, and build their homes and their futures. The people of the fledgling settlement raised \$100 to build a wood frame building to create a school and a true community.

Today, Foxcroft Academy sits upon a beautiful 125-acre campus with a full array of state-of-the-art academic, athletic, and residential facilities. More than 350 day students live in Dover-Foxcroft and neighboring towns, and an additional 100 international students come from 20 countries around the world.

Foxcroft Academy is renowned for high achievement in academics, athletics, and the arts. Its designation as an Apple Distinguished School recognizes its successful integration of technology into education, and its inclusion in the International Baccalaureate Program acknowledges its commitment to helping students become good global citizens.

The school's motto is “Knowledge is Power.” Whether graduates go on to college, the workforce, or the military, they leave Foxcroft Academy empowered to succeed.

Foxcroft Academy was founded with a pioneering, innovative spirit that is carried on today by students, faculty, administrators, and supporters. This bicentennial year is a time to celebrate a school that holds a special place in Maine's history and in its future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DAVID HUDSON

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Sebastian County Judge David Hudson who recently retired after nearly five decades of service to the county and its citizens.

Judge Hudson grew up in Fort Smith. I have been blessed to know him since

our days at Darby Junior High School and he has been a dear friend ever since. He earned his bachelor and master's degrees from the University of Arkansas and started working for Sebastian County in 1976 as an administrative assistant. Two decades later, he was elected to his first term as the Sebastian County judge.

Judge Hudson spent his career improving the financial management of the county while continuing to implement critical projects. Without raising taxes, he led the renovation of the county courthouse, an expansion of the county jail, and construction of a new courts building, waterpark, and EMS facility, all of which have greatly served the county and its residents.

He was also a champion for the creation of the State's first crisis stabilization unit, which I had the privilege of visiting with Judge Hudson. He worked closely with law enforcement, prosecutors, and mental health professionals to see the completion of this project to provide an alternative to jail and emergency rooms for people experiencing a mental health crisis. Throughout his career, he has been a champion for law enforcement, the court system, and our first responders, and I appreciate his dedication to solving these important issues.

Judge Hudson distinguished himself as an advocate for the community and a champion of the people who call the region home. Before being elected as county judge, he managed the Sebastian County Emergency Medical Services for 15 years. He also served in a number of roles including as an educator at the former Westark Community College, as well as an active member and leader of numerous civic organizations and State and local boards and commissions.

I congratulate Judge David Hudson for his outstanding work and years of service to Sebastian County. I appreciate his friendship and excellent leadership which has resulted in improvement and growth throughout the county. I wish him all the best in his retirement.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:23 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Chair.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3003, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Chair.

The message further announced that pursuant to sections 5580 and 5581 of the revised statutes (20 U.S.C. 42-43), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 22. An act to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from sending petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to China, and for other purposes.

The following joint resolution was read the first time:

S.J. Res. 4. Joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tolerance Exemption: Iron Oxide (Fe₃O₄) in Pesticide Formulations Applied to Animals; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 10458-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Management Division, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "RESUBMISSION—Implementing Provisions of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018" (RIN0572-AC49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cattle Contracts Library Pilot Program" ((RIN0581-AE22) (Docket No. AMS-LP-22-0065)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Simazine; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9321-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extract of *Caesalpinia Spinosa*; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 10495-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Domestic Quarantine Regulations; Quarantined Areas and Regulated Articles" ((RIN0579-AE53) (Docket No. APHIS-2019-0035)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report and budget details relative to Operation INHERENT RESOLVE (OSS-2023-0010); to the Committees on Armed Services; Foreign Relations; and Appropriations.

EC-8. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prohibition on Certain Procurements from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region" (RIN0750-AL59) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of six (6) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-10. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to OFAC Sanctions Regulations" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-11. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Illicit Drug Trade Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Part 599) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-12. A communication from the Program Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold" (RIN1557-AF17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-13. A communication from the Acting General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules of Practice and Procedure; Civil Money Penalty Inflation Adjustment" (RIN2590-AB26) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-14. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Truth in Lending (Regulation Z) Annual Threshold Adjustments (Credit Cards, HOEPA, and Qualified Mortgages)" (12 CFR Part 1026) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-15. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance

Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2023-2024 Multi-family Enterprise Housing Goals" (RIN2590-AB21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-16. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13466 with respect to North Korea; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-17. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13405 with respect to Belarus; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-18. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13219 with respect to the Western Balkans; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-19. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the Department's activities during calendar year 2021 relative to the Equal Credit Opportunity Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-20. A communication from the Acting Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of the Comptroller's 2021 Annual Report on Preservation and Promotion of Minority-Owned National Banks and Federal Savings Associations; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 27. A bill to prohibit the Department of Defense from requiring contractors to provide information relating to greenhouse gas emissions; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 28. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a partially refundable credit against payroll taxes for certain restaurants affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. LEE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. PAUL, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HAWLEY, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 29. A bill to provide remedies to members of the Armed Forces discharged or subject to adverse action under the COVID-19 vaccine mandate; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 30. A bill to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. DAINES, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. LEE):

S. 31. A bill to provide for the development and issuance of a plan to increase oil and gas production on Federal land in conjunction with a drawdown of petroleum reserves from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 32. A bill to increase the number of landlords participating in the Housing Choice Voucher program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 33. A bill to rescue domestic medical product manufacturing activity by providing incentives in economically distressed areas of the United States and its possessions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 34. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to provide loans to manufacturers of energy grid products and components; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. 35. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to make available parental leave benefits to parents following the birth or adoption of a child, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 36. A bill to review domestic biopharmaceutical manufacturing capabilities in order to improve public health and medical preparedness and response capabilities and domestic biopharmaceutical manufacturing capabilities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 37. A bill to require the Attorney General to make competitive grants to State, tribal, and local governments to establish and maintain witness protection and assistance programs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 38. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to codify the Boots to Business Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 39. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to modify work requirements under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KAINE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 40. A bill to address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and

to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 41. A bill to reauthorize the READ Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 42. A bill to improve the management and performance of the capital asset programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs so as to better serve veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 43. A bill to repeal the provision of law that provides automatic pay adjustments for Members of Congress; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 44. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to incentivize investment in facilities that carry out the metallurgy of rare earth elements and the production of finished rare earth products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 45. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify reporting requirements, promote tax compliance, and reduce tip reporting compliance burdens in the beauty service industry; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 46. A bill to establish a small business and domestic production recovery investment facility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 47. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 to modify a provision relating to acquisition of beach fill; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 48. A bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to establish a grant program for community-based maternal mentoring programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 49. A bill to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to extend the moratorium on drilling off the coasts of the States of Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 50. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to give priority consideration to selecting Pensacola and Perdido Bays as an estuary of national significance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ

MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 51. A bill to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 52. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish country of origin labeling requirements for beef, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 53. A bill to identify and combat corruption in countries, to establish a tiered list of countries with respect to levels of corruption by their governments and their efforts to combat such corruption, and to evaluate whether foreign persons engaged in significant corruption should be specially designated nationals under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HASSAN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 54. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation on the credit for biomass stoves and boilers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOZMAN:

S. 55. A bill to limit the detailing of directors of medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs to different positions within the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 56. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish tax credits to encourage individual and corporate taxpayers to contribute to scholarships for students through eligible scholarship-granting organizations and eligible workforce training organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 57. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit kindergarten through grade 12 educational expenses to be paid from a 529 account; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 58. A bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to prohibit transactions involving certain financial instruments by Members of Congress; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 59. A bill to implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 60. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to allow

parents of eligible military dependent children to establish Military Education Savings Accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 61. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to implement a strategy to combat the efforts of transnational criminal organizations to recruit individuals in the United States via social media platforms and other online services and assess their use of such platforms and services for illicit activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S.J. Res. 4. A joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; read the first time.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 25

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 25, a bill to regulate assault weapons, to ensure that the right to keep and bear arms is not unlimited, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 10, a resolution memorializing the unborn by lowering the United States flag to half-staff on the 22nd day of January each year.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. DAINES, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. LEE):

S. 31. A bill to provide for the development and issuance of a plan to increase oil and gas production on Federal land in conjunction with a drawdown of petroleum reserves from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today to talk about the need for more American energy.

We are approaching the end of January. Winter storms have been covering the country from Colorado to Connecticut. We are seeing it everywhere: Temperatures drop. Energy prices go up. In a typical year, cold actually kills more Americans than extreme heat. This winter, millions of families are in danger of being left out in the cold because of the cost of energy. We know that more than 20 million households in America, right now, have fallen behind on their ability to pay their energy bills.

Record-high inflation has robbed the American people of more than \$10,000 for each and every family since Joe Biden has become President. Just look

at what people were paying for things before he came into office and what they are paying today. As a result, people are able to save less, and they are having to pay more. We know that about two out of three American households are living paycheck to paycheck. Personal savings in this country is now at a record low; household debt is at a record high. People are having to borrow more money and put things on the credit card at higher and higher interest rates.

At the same time, energy prices are dramatically higher than they were the day Joe Biden took office. The cost of heating oil is up by two-thirds. Natural gas is higher now than in a long time. Electricity is up by 20 cents on the dollar. As a result, there is actually the risk of people having their energy and their electricity shut off this winter. Some are doing it voluntarily because they don't want the big bill that is going to come.

It is hard to believe that it is happening here in the wealthiest country in the world. We have enough energy to keep every American warm this winter. Some of it, they won't let us get out of the ground, but we have it. So it is an absolute disgrace, with the energy resources we have in this country, that Americans are facing brownouts and blackouts from an energy standpoint because of the Biden administration's radical climate policies. Millions and millions of Americans are living with financial fear and with massive frustration at this administration for ignoring the needs of the people.

So what are the Democrats doing about it? Nothing. Joe Biden actually sold some of our emergency Strategic Petroleum Reserve to China. You wouldn't believe that; yet it happened. Our petroleum reserve is for America. It is for emergencies. It is for natural disasters. It is for war. It is not for China.

This week, I am introducing legislation to make sure this never happens again. The House has already passed this legislation. The vote was completely bipartisan, more than 100 Democrats voted for it in the House. There is no reason it shouldn't be bipartisan here in the Senate as well.

So I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in this effort. The Strategic Petroleum Reserve is for us. It is not for our enemies.

Joe Biden has promised to use our tax dollars—I mean, it is astonishing. He went to the United Nations and said he was going to give \$11 billion a year to the United Nations for climate reparations—for energy we have used—giving away American dollars when Americans can't afford to pay for energy costs here at home. Why is he doing it? If you listen to his speech, it is because he wants to say he is sorry. That is what we have, a President who wants to apologize once again for America. He wants us to feel guilty about the fact that we have built the strongest economy in the world by

using oil, gas, coal—all of the energy resources that we have in this country.

The American people have nothing to apologize for. Joe Biden is wrong. We shouldn't apologize for being an energy superpower. We shouldn't apologize for using our energy resources. If he wants to apologize, he ought to be apologizing to the people of the United States for the policies he has put in place that have driven up costs and caused pain for families all across America. He should apologize for raising taxes on American energy. He should apologize for wasting tax dollars.

The Secretary of Energy—his Secretary of Energy—has given more than \$200 million in loans to companies in China. The Secretary of the Treasury is going to China soon. She met with China's Vice Premier recently in Switzerland. According to the Treasury Department, she agreed to "enhance cooperation [with China] on climate finance . . . as well as support for . . . developing countries in their clean energy transitions"—in other words, more American taxpayer dollars for other people in other countries.

Again, the excuse for all of this is climate.

The Democrats in Washington are utterly obsessed with the green dreams of the coastal elites who run the Democratic Party, who call the tune. Again and again, the Democrats side with the climate elites over the common folks. I hear it in Wyoming. I hear it no matter where I travel in the country. The Democrats are offering working families nothing more than higher taxes and higher prices, and they continue to raise taxes.

The Democrats just threatened to ban natural gas stoves. Nearly half of the homes in America use natural gas. This is the administration—a nominee by the President. That is what he said. He didn't say it once. He said it repeatedly. The Democrats also just raised taxes on coal by more than \$1 billion.

So what happens with all of these new taxes? They get handed down to working families in Wyoming and across America. What happens with higher taxes? It means higher prices and higher energy costs.

Janet Yellen is flying around the world and offering more of our tax dollars to these other countries. Last week, there was a large Democrat political rally held in Switzerland, at a place called Davos. The masters of the universe flew to Switzerland for the World Economic Forum.

From the television reports and the news reports, much of the conversation was about climate. The President's energy/climate czar, John Kerry, was there. He gave a speech. You talk about somebody with smug superiority; he just thinks he knows better than anybody else.

Here is what he said. This is from John Kerry:

It's extraordinary that we, a select group of human beings . . . are able to talk about saving the planet.

Thank you, John Kerry. You are going to save us all. I can hardly wait. He added:

If you say that to most people, they think you're just a crazy, tree-hugging, lefty, liberal do-gooder . . . but that's where we are.

Well, John Kerry, you are right. Most people—certainly, anybody in Wyoming—who would listen to you would say you are just a crazy, tree-hugging, lefty, liberal do-gooder. That is who we have got from the President of the United States doing his climate bidding in Switzerland. This is exactly what people think about John Kerry and the climate crisis and the positions of this administration.

As if one failed Presidential nominee and candidate weren't embarrassing enough, then we had a real Vice President who came to speak, a former Vice President named Al Gore. Anyone watching Al Gore speak would say that, basically, he descended into an unhinged rant. About what? Well, climate of course. That is all he ever rants about. The former Democrat Senator and Vice President said we are "boiling the oceans." That is what we are doing, apparently, he said, if we don't obey his energy policies. Well, I am sure he and John Kerry have great times together. "Boiling the oceans." He even said we are creating what he called "rain bombs."

He wants to save the planet as well, and I would say: What planet is he on? That is what we are seeing coming out of this administration as their voice on the world stage.

When it comes to energy, what are the Democrats offering? A fairytale, a fantasy, and a fraud. That is what we hear from the Democrats. The Democrats' green dreams are causing nightmares for working families, who have to pay for all of this. The only green thing about the Democrats' energy agenda is how much green it costs American families.

John Kerry said it himself. He said:

How do we get there?

And he said:

Money, money, money.

That is his answer—American money, American dollars—and he is going to save the planet.

Europe has already tried its own Green New Deal. It has been a disaster for the working people of those countries. We can't let that happen here. We just cannot.

The International Energy Agency projects a record high demand for oil later this year. This is at a time when Joe Biden is making us keep it in the ground. Wyoming is the energy breadbasket of the Nation. We have it. It is affordable. It is available. It is reliable. That is not good enough for Joe Biden. No. He wants to go to Iran, go to Venezuela, go to Saudi Arabia, with hat in hand, and beg them to produce more and send it here. It is interesting listening to the climate elites as they are fixated on renewable energy regardless of the costs and regardless of the consequences.

The Democrats need to stop this science fiction. It is long past time for America to unleash our energy and stop this foolishness coming from the administration that has us buying energy from our enemies instead of selling it to our friends. We have an abundance of American energy, and the Democrats want to keep it buried in the ground. For every American family who is struggling to make ends meet and is falling further behind because of the inflation caused by the Democrats' spending, it is time to unleash American energy right now.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 41. A bill to reauthorize the READ Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 41

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "READ Act Reauthorization Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 4(a) of the Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development Act (division A of Public Law 115-56; 22 U.S.C. 2151c note) is amended by striking "during the following five fiscal years" and inserting "during the following ten fiscal years".

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 52. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish country of origin labeling requirements for beef, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 52

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "American Beef Labeling Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING FOR BEEF.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 281 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1638) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (8), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so redesignated) the following:

"(1) BEEF.—The term 'beef' means meat produced from cattle (including veal)."; and

(3) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in clause (i), by inserting " , beef," after "lamb"; and

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting “, ground beef,” after “lamb”.

(b) NOTICE OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.—Section 282(a)(2) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1638a(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by inserting “BEEF,” after “FOR”;

(2) in each of subparagraphs (A) through (D), by inserting “beef,” before “lamb” each place it appears; and

(3) in subparagraph (E)—

(A) in the subparagraph heading, by inserting “BEEF,” after “GROUND”; and

(B) by inserting “ground beef,” before “ground lamb” each place it appears.

(c) MEANS OF REINSTATING MCOOL FOR BEEF.—

(1) DETERMINATION OF MEANS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Trade Representative, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall determine a means of reinstating mandatory country of origin labeling for beef in accordance with the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) that is in compliance with all applicable rules of the World Trade Organization.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION OF MEANS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Trade Representative and the Secretary of Agriculture shall implement the means determined under paragraph (1).

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) take effect on the earlier of—

(1) the date on which the Secretary of Agriculture publishes a determination in the Federal Register that the means determined under paragraph (1) of subsection (c) have been implemented under paragraph (2) of that subsection; and

(2) the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 53. A bill to identify and combat corruption in countries, to establish a tiered list of countries with respect to levels of corruption by their governments and their efforts to combat such corruption, and to evaluate whether foreign persons engaged in significant corruption should be specially designated nationals under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, President Biden, on June 3, 2021, issued a memorandum on “Establishing the Fight Against Corruption as a Core United States National Security Interest.” I want to quote from the President when he issued that memorandum. President Biden said:

Corruption threatens United States national security, economic equity, global anti-poverty and development efforts, and democracy itself. . . . [B]y effectively preventing and countering corruption and demonstrating the advantages of transparent and accountable governance, we can secure a critical advantage for the United States and other democracies.

Corruption is a national security core interest. Corruption is the source of Mr. Putin’s resources that he uses for his international activities, including the war in Ukraine and to try to bring down democratic states.

Today, the Atlantic Council is releasing a report—the report titled “Why

the kleptocrats still win: A strategy for the United States and Europe to address weaponized corruption.” The report points out how the kleptocrats hide their wealth in Western countries because they believe it is safer in Western countries to hide their wealth. And the report points out the need for us to coordinate efforts between the United States and Europe.

Today, I am filing legislation, the Combating Global Corruption Act. I am joined by my friend Senator TODD YOUNG of Indiana—bipartisan legislation—to deal with the U.S. leadership in fighting global corruption. It will give the State Department and the United States an important tool. It will give the United States leadership in showing the international community the steps that need to be taken in order to counter corruption. It would require the State Department to publish a list of countries in three tiers, the highest tier being those countries that are taking the steps necessary to fight corruption; the bottom tier would be those countries that are not making the required effort to deal with corruption in their country.

The State Department will be using internationally established standards for fighting corruption that the international community has already signed off on as being the proper way to fight corruption in your particular state.

For example, it references the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption, the Organization of American States—the OAS—that was passed in 1996; acknowledged procedures in our hemisphere to deal with corruption. It references the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials, international business transactions of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development—the OECD—which was adopted in 1997.

It references the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime that was agreed to in 2000 and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which was agreed to in 2003.

These guidelines already exist and allow the United States to use those guidelines that have already been established by the global community to judge how every state is meeting their commitment to fight corruption.

Countries that are not meeting their commitment, we put a spotlight on them. That spotlight encourages them to do more. It points out ways in which they can take action to fight corruption in their own country.

Now, this is not a new strategy that we just came up with that we start giving a report on all countries on how well they are doing in fighting corruption. It is not a new concept. We have done that successfully in several other areas. One that we should take great pride in this institution—because we were ones who established this—is the Trafficking in Persons requirements.

Today, the United States files a report on every country as to how well

they are meeting their international responsibilities to protect the modern victims of slavery, trafficking in persons. It has been bipartisan. It has been very effective.

Secretary of State Blinken said, in releasing the report of this year, on July 19, 2022, he said:

Today we’re releasing the 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report. It assesses how 188 countries and territories, including the United States, are performing in terms of preventing trafficking, protecting victims, prosecuting traffickers. That makes this one of the most comprehensive sources of information anywhere on anti-trafficking efforts by government—what works, what doesn’t, and how we can continue to do better.

We do that in preventing trafficking. We can do that in stopping corruption.

We have a country report on human rights. Again, I will quote from Secretary of State Blinken when he released this report on April 2, 2022. This is a report that judges all countries on how well they are dealing with human rights. Secretary Blinken said, in releasing that report on April 2 of last year:

For nearly five decades, the United States has issued the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, which strive to provide a factual and objective record on the status of human rights worldwide—in 2021, covering 198 countries and territories. The information contained in these reports could not be more vital or urgent given ongoing human rights abuses and violations in many countries, continued democratic backsliding on several continents, and creeping authoritarianism that threatens both human rights and democracy—most notably, at present, with Russia’s unprovoked attack on Ukraine.

[A]nd using resources like the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, we can come closer to building a world where respect for human rights is truly universal.

That human rights report works. Putting a spotlight on what countries need to do brings about change. It promotes a core value in the United States, respect for human rights and good governance. We do that here in the United States to show global leadership.

I will mention one other report that is issued by our State Department, one on international religious freedom. Again, this was bipartisan. So on June 2 of last year, Secretary Blinken said, when he released the International Religious Freedom Report:

This report offers a thorough, fact-based review of the state of religious freedom in nearly 200 countries and territories around the world. We produced this document every year since 1998. . . . Now, more than two decades later, we have more than 35 governments and multilateral organizations that have created offices that are dedicated to this goal.

This year’s report includes several countries where we see notable progress thanks to the work of governments, civil society organizations, and citizens. For example, last year, the Kingdom of Morocco launched an initiative to renovate Jewish heritage sites like synagogues and cemeteries, and to include Jewish history in the Moroccan public school curriculum. . . . [T]his report is about

spreading that kind of progress to more parts of the world. . . . Unfortunately, the report also shows that we have more work to do.

There is value in what we do in showing the international community what works, what doesn't work, what countries are doing to make progress, whether it is on trafficking, whether it is on human rights, whether it is on religious freedom. And we need to do the same on fighting corruption. We had the model that works. And the legislation that Senator YOUNG and I have introduced today allows us to provide such a report in fighting corruption.

The legislation also gives the Secretary of State some additional tools that could be helpful. The bill directs the Secretary of State and Treasury to evaluate whether there are foreign persons engaged in significant corruption for the purposes of potential imposition of sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act in the countries listed in tier 3. That is the lowest performing tier.

I mention that because the Magnitsky Sanctions have had a proud history in this Chamber. We initiated the Magnitsky Sanctions originally against Russia because of the torture and death of Sergei Magnitsky. We then made it global for those that are perpetrating gross violations of international human rights.

I introduced the legislation with my partner who was the late Senator McCain. The two of us said we need to include corruption as one of the basic human rights violations that would be eligible for individual sanctions. And we did.

In the last Congress, we made the Global Magnitsky Sanctions permanent. And I was proud that we were able to do that in the National Defense Authorization Act. What is unique by these sanctions is that they are individual. They are not against the country. They are personal to the individual who violates the basic rights.

And what does it do? It prevents them from getting a visa to come to

America because they like to visit their wealth that is here in our country. And it prevents them from using our banking system. It works.

It was reportedly the first issue between Mr. Putin and President Trump in their first bilateral summit meeting. Mr. Putin was upset about these sanctions. Good. I am glad that he is.

This legislation that Senator YOUNG and I have introduced allows us to look at whether we should be using these individual sanctions—these Magnitsky Sanctions—against the perpetrators of corruption who have not been held accountable in their own country.

There is lot to be said about why this legislation is so important. So I would like to just conclude by pointing out the bill that we introduced today is nearly identical to the bill that we introduced in the last Congress. It was reported out on a bipartisan basis by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

I want to thank Senator MENENDEZ for his help and Senator RISCH for his help. This is not a partisan bill. This is a bipartisan bill to promote an American value and a national security concern and that is making sure that America leads in fighting corruption so we do not have the resources going into a country like Russia, where Mr. Putin uses it to try to bring down our system of government.

I urge my colleagues to join me and Senator YOUNG in this effort. I hope that we are able to pass this bill quickly in the U.S. Senate.

We came close to doing it in the last Congress. We can get it passed in the House and signed by the President. I think we will look back at this day when that report comes out and say that we were able to accomplish concrete improvements in making this world a better place, in promoting American values, that this report will make a difference.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I have two requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 25; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:02 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING LISA MARIE PRESLEY

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in profound sadness to mark the passing of a daughter of Memphis and a world-renowned ambassador of American music and culture, Lisa Marie Presley. Lisa Marie passed on January 12 at the age of 54. Her life was celebrated this past Sunday at Graceland, in Memphis, where she is buried with her father, Elvis, and her 27-year-old son, Benjamin Storm Keough, in the mansion's Memorial Garden. Lisa Marie was born in Memphis on February 1, 1968, and the event made headlines around the world. She remained in the limelight throughout her life, bestowing her charm on her hometown by unveiling the U.S. postage stamp honoring her father in Memphis, leading her own musical career, nurturing her father's legacy, and remembering Graceland as a place of refuge even though she was there when her father passed away in 1977. As befits a rock 'n roll legend with 3 well-regarded studio albums, she was given a star-studded send off on a cold and dreary day with her mother, Priscilla, reciting a poem; Sarah, the Duchess of York and a friend, remembering her lost son; and Alanis Morissette, Billy Corgan, the Blackwood Brothers Quartet, and Axl Rose offering musical tributes. The service was bookended by Jason Clark and The Tennessee Mass Choir, who began with "Amazing Grace." It was an honor to attend the celebration of her life in front of Graceland along with "Elvis" director Baz Luhrmann; actor Austin Butler, who portrayed Elvis in Luhrmann's film; Jerry Schilling, one of Elvis' closest friends and a family confidante; former Memphis and Shelby County Mayor A C Wharton; Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland; and an estimated 5,000 fans. I wish to express my deepest condolences to Lisa Marie's mother, my friend Priscilla, Lisa Marie's daughters, actress Riley Keough and twins Harper Vivienne Ann Lockwood and Finley Aaron Love Lockwood, and all who knew and loved her.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CITY MANAGER CATHERINE COOK

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Ms. Catherine Cook of Hope, Arkansas.

Ms. Cook has honorably served the city of Hope since 1990 and has been City Manager since 1996. Local officials like Ms. Cook are the backbone of America, as they assess and

address the needs of their communities. As City Manager, she was instrumental in maintaining and improving the infrastructure of the City of Hope. She has also been active in the community outside of her work as City Manager. This work helped Hope flourish, and the impact of her projects are being felt daily by local families and businesses. Thanks to all that Ms. Cook has done, future generations of Hope residents will have a legacy they can build on and be proud to share.

Mr. Speaker, I thank City Manager Cook for her 32 years of service and dedication to the people of Hope.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF MARZETTE "MARZY" BEDFORD-BILLINGHURST, LONGTIME FEDERAL EMPLOYEE AND CIVIL SERVANT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a woman who has contributed so much to this Congress and this country: Marzette 'Marzy' Bedford-Billinghurst. After more than 3 decades in federal service, she recently began her well-earned retirement. As someone who has had the privilege of working closely with Marzy in the past, I can personally attest to her virtues as a sharp, dedicated, and generous federal civil servant and American. She deserves recognition for her many deeds in service to this Nation.

Our work together began back in 1988 when Marzy joined my legislative staff. As my Senior Legislative Assistant, she quickly became an indispensable advisor on a broad range of issues. From formulating and drafting key legislation to taking meetings with constituents and stakeholders, Marzy approached every part of the job with admirable enthusiasm and poise. She brought that same work ethic to the House Committee on the District of Columbia in 1993. Although we were sad to see Marzy leave our team, we knew she would always go wherever she was able to make the biggest difference in the lives of her fellow Americans. Indeed, that's what took her to the Department of Labor in 1995.

As an important official in DOL's Women's Bureau, Marzy was at the forefront of the effort to create more equitable and inclusive workplaces for women across the Nation. She helped advance initiatives addressing everything from sexual harassment to gender, wage, and pregnancy discrimination in the workplace. Marzy also understood that faithful service to the federal government requires one to hold it to the same principles of equality, justice, and freedom that underpin our entire democracy. That's why she pushed DOL to create designated rooms in its headquarters where mothers could breastfeed and pump in privacy. Marzy's unyielding devotion to her

crucial work earned her dozens of awards and honors over the years—including Vice President Al Gore's Hammer Award and, most recently, DOL's Distinguished Career Service Award. Anyone boasting such an impressive list of accomplishments and accolades could rest easy knowing they did far more than their fair share to leave their country better than they found it. Marzy's commitment to service, however, extended beyond her career.

Throughout her decades working for the federal government, Marzy continued to devote much of her spare time to bettering her community. Between 2005 and 2012, for instance, she served as a House Manager for the Sacred Heart House Temporary Homeless Shelter for Women and Children in Denver, supporting women and families in need face-to-face. She also has served on the Board of Directors of the Denver chapter of Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). After Hurricane Katrina devastated numerous communities in 2005, Marzy stepped up and volunteered to help with relief efforts for 30 days as part of a DOL delegation to the Federal Emergency Management Administration. Marzy made all these contributions through her work and her volunteering while simultaneously raising 2 incredible sons, Kahler and Cameron, with her husband Mark. If that weren't enough, her neighbors also entrusted her to serve as the captain of their local Democratic precinct and as their delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 2008. They recognized what I and everyone else who has had the pleasure to know Marzy have seen: she is a person of integrity—someone who will always stand up for what is right.

That will remain true even as Marzy begins her retirement from federal service. I have no doubt that she will continue to help those in need, strengthen her community, and speak up for the principles she devoted her career to promoting. I often say that dedication and reliability are the 2 most critical traits in our federal civil service. Marzy exemplifies both. She has inspired many to follow in her footsteps and serve our country. Although the many friends and colleagues Marzy has made over the years will surely miss her guidance and expertise, I know I speak for all of us in wishing her and her family well as she begins this exciting new chapter. She has my thanks as well as the gratitude of this House and the American people. May Marzy enjoy a happy and satisfying retirement. She has earned it.

APPRECIATING MRS. JACKIE AUTRY'S REFUGEE STAND

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a great American for her inspiring clarion call to support refugees. Jackie Autry, the widow of the crooning cowboy singer and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

film actor Gene Autry, placed an advertisement in Tuesday's New York Times, warning that denying entry to refugees at the Southern Border will give the United States "another black eye." She compared the errors being made today to the slaughter of Native Americans, the enslavement of Africans, and the denial of entry to the M.S. St. Louis with more than 900 Jewish refugees during World War II. "The current tragedy at the Southern Border will rank up there with these three," she wrote. Gene Autry gave up a career in Hollywood and international stardom to fight for our country in World War II, Mrs. Autry noted, and he would be offended at the treatment of refugees "turned . . . away in the freezing temperatures of Christmas Eve." She added: "We can't find workers in this country, but Congress will keep refugees out who want to work." She called on all who can "to protect those who need protection and do what is right." I could not say it better and am proud to amplify her thoughtful and courageous statement. Thank you, Mrs. Autry.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ED
BOWMAN

HON. TROY BALDERSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to pay tribute to the memory of a Zanesville, Ohio legend, Coach Ed Bowman.

Born in 1928, Coach Bowman served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and returned home to a 36-year career with the United States Postal Service as a beloved local mail carrier.

Ed coached the St Thomas 7th and 8th Grade Boys Basketball for over 40 years, mentoring hundreds—if not thousands—of players during his tenure.

In recognition of his service, Coach Bowman was inducted into the Rosecrans Athletic Boosters Hall of Fame, Zanesville Daybreak Rotary Club Community Service Award in 2015 and is a Member of "Forever Dads Legacy of Fatherhood" Class of 2018.

Coach Bowman leaves behind a lasting legacy in the Zanesville community.

PROTECTING AMERICA'S STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE FROM CHINA ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2023

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to provide remarks on H.R. 22. Republicans brought H.R. 22, the Protecting America's Strategic Petroleum Reserve from China Act, to the House Floor today to prohibit selling oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to China.

This legislation would not be necessary if the previous Republican majority hadn't lifted a ban on crude oil exports, in place since 1975, at the urging of their Big Oil friends in 2015.

China has now exploited this harmful Republican policy change by purchasing and stockpiling American crude oil. U.S. exports of crude oil to China increased nearly 100-fold under President Trump. During the Trump administration, U.S. oil companies sent over 391 million barrels of crude oil to China.

House Democrats had legislation (the Buy Low and Sell High Act) that would go further to protect American interests by not only banning the export of Strategic Petroleum Reserve oil to China, but also to adversaries such as North Korea, Russia, Iran, and any other country under U.S. sanctions. If Republicans really wanted to tackle this issue, they would have worked with us in a bipartisan manner to pass this legislation last Congress.

Republicans passed this legislation to fix a political problem they created for themselves, which in the end, doesn't solve the problem.

CELEBRATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARION COUNTY

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 200th anniversary of Marion County, Illinois.

Known as the "Gateway of Little Egypt," Marion County was organized January 24, 1823, and was named in honor of Revolutionary War General Francis Marion. General Marion pioneered the use of irregular warfare against the British during the American Revolution, with his tactics forming a part of the modern-day military doctrine of the U.S. Army's 75th Ranger Regiment.

Marion County is closely tied to the livelihood and commerce of agriculture, the development and expansion of railroads, and the discovery of natural resources including coal and oil. Today, 95 percent of the more than 1,000 farms in Marion County are proudly family-owned, and they grow some of the best soybeans, corn, and wheat in the nation.

I congratulate the residents, churches, community leaders, farmers, families, and factory workers on their contributions to their county and country and commend the generations of dedicated Marion County leaders who made the last 200 years so productive. I look forward to the many achievements to come.

CONGRATULATING MR. MCKINLEY "MACK" WILBOURN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to rise today, to extend heartfelt congratulations to an extraordinary entrepreneur, corporate leader, philanthropist, political savant, patron of the arts and friend of longstanding, Mr. McKinley "Mack" Wilbourn. On Tuesday, January 17, 2023, friends, family, leaders in commerce, government, and others from across the country, gathered at the High Museum of Art, 1280 Peachtree Street NE, in Atlanta, Georgia to

participate in "The Mack Trilogy" celebrating 50 years of excellence in business, Mack's 79th birthday and launching The Mack Wilbourn Legacy Foundation. It was a fitting tribute to a man who through hard work and perseverance used his God-given "talent", grew it to the pinnacle of financial success, and is reaching back to lift others behind him.

Mack Wilbourn, a native of Magnolia, Arkansas, attended Tucson High School and the University of Arizona where he majored in accounting. From one of his first jobs as a youth at Jack in the Box, he began his experience in the restaurant industry and in 1971, along with his partner, Brad Hubbert, became one of the first minority McDonald's franchisees in the Atlanta area, growing to 4 restaurants and 150 employees. His current franchises include Atlanta Bread & Bar, Baja Fresh Mexican, Famiglia Pizze, Phillips Seafood, Popeyes and We Juice It at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. He is managing partner of MWJ, LLC, a vending company and has managed the Coca Cola Vending locations throughout the Atlanta airport since 2004. He started an angel investment firm focused on startup businesses that could potentially compete on the next level with proper resources and guidance.

Mack has pursued joint business opportunities as a consultant with Parodies Midfield Corporation, The Rouse Corporation (Underground Atlanta), and Service America Corporation (Fulton County Jail Foodservice), started the first Popeye's Chicken in an airport and his Edy's Ice Cream, also at the airport, and became an Olympic Licensee for color changing mugs for the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games.

Mack has earned numerous awards and been recognized by the Atlanta Business League, Minority Business Entrepreneur, Franchise Update, Georgia Restaurant Association, City of College Park, the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau, among many. Always politically active, he has hosted 4 Democratic Presidents: Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, Barack Obama; and Joe Biden; as well as Congressional, State and local leaders from Mayor Maynard Jackson and Ambassador Andrew Young to Reverend Senator Raphael Warnock.

Believing that service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on this earth, Mack has been a servant leader in the larger community with Atlanta Business League, Butler Street YMCA, The Urban League, the NAACP, Zoo Atlanta, The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, The National Black Arts Festival, The Atlanta Tip Off Club, Brain Injury Association of Georgia, The High Museum and Center for Puppetry Arts and numerous youth organizations.

Mack serves on the boards of Georgia Primary Bank, The Center Helping Obesity in Children End Successfully (CHOICES), The Piedmont Foundation, the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery Museum, and the Democratic National Finance Committee. Moreover, he is an active member of Salem Bible Church.

Mack Wilbourn has accomplished much in his 79 years of life. However, as a man of deep faith he knows that none of it would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of his family including his sons, McKenzie and Marquis along with his 3 grandchildren.

It has been said that the true person of success is not the one who climbs the ladder of

life with 2 hands but climbs with 1 hand and reaches back with the other. Mack is reaching back as he launches the McKinley "Mack" Wilbourn Legacy Foundation to transform, inspire and provide opportunities for the underserved in the areas of Art and Culture, Entrepreneurship and Financial Literacy. His vision is to revolutionize the outlook and provide life changing opportunities for marginalized communities.

Mr. Speaker, McKinley "Mack" Wilbourn has done so much for so many for so long. I therefore ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the other Members of the Georgia Congressional Delegation and all those whose lives Mack has touched, in extending our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on 50 years of excellence in business, 79 years of life and the launching of the McKinley "Mack" Wilbourn Legacy Foundation. To God be the Glory.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND LEWIS
GUNTER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a beloved faith and community leader. Reverend Lewis Gunter transitioned from this life on January 11, 2023, but indelible mark on the State of South Carolina remains.

Rev. Gunter was born on April 13, 1930, in Lexington County, South Carolina to the late Mr. Cellus and Mrs. Beulah Gunter. He attended public school in Lexington County before moving to Aiken, South Carolina, where he graduated from Schofield High School. He pursued higher education at Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina. He was committed to helping those in need and earned his bachelor's degree in social work.

Rev. Gunter got his early spiritual education at Hall Hill Baptist Church in Pelion, South Carolina. The first church he pastored was Mt. Olive Baptist Church, in Gadsden, South Carolina. He would continue to preach the gospel in Richland County, pastoring Gill Creek Baptist Church in Columbia, South Carolina, and Jerusalem Baptist Church in Hopkins, South Carolina. On October 20, 1976, Rev. Gunter founded Gunter's Chapel Baptist Church with 22 charter members in a temporary space. Under his leadership the congregation grew and prospered, and in 1993 the church opened the doors of its newly-built sanctuary. Throughout his career, he traveled the country conducting revivals and was active in several Christian organizations. After loyally guiding his congregation for 46 years and serving in the Ministry for 60 years, Rev. Gunter retired in 2022. I was pleased to be invited by his family and friends to keynote the retirement banquet that was held in his honor.

He lived out his values through other channels of service to his community, city, state, and country. He served in the U.S. Navy for four years, in addition to his work with the U.S. Postal Service. Rev. Gunter was deeply connected to the land and was elected to serve as the Soil and Water District Commissioner for Richland County for six years. He

additionally served as Minority Advisor for the Department of Agriculture for Calhoun and Richland Counties and was the state chaplain for the South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation.

Rev. Gunter was a dedicated family man and was married to Lue E. Pearson Gunter for fifty-five years before her passing. They are lovingly remembered by their son, three grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring the life of Reverend Lewis Gunter. He faithfully pastored those in his congregation, dedicating his life to his church and his community. His legacy will live on in all those who were blessed to know him.

RECOGNIZING DR. KEITH COPELIN
FERDINAND

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Keith C. Ferdinand for his recognition as a 2023 Southern University at New Orleans Center for African and African American Studies Living Legend. Dr. Ferdinand is receiving this high honor because of his dedicated service to the citizens of New Orleans as a Cardiovascular Physician. For over 40 years, Dr. Ferdinand has endeavored to improve the health and lives of African Americans and other high risk, marginalized populations. He has devoted his life in medicine to eliminating the health disparities of New Orleans' most ostracized people. In light of all of the aforementioned professional tributes, the roles he most treasures are devoted son, sibling, father, and husband.

Keith C. Ferdinand, MD, FACC, FAHA, FASH, FNLA began his medical career with a BA in biology from the University of New Orleans. He then went on to earn an MD from Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, DC, an internship at the US Public Health Hospital in New Orleans, an internal medicine residency and cardiology fellowship at LSU Medical Center and a cardiology fellowship at Howard University Hospital, Washington, D.C. Following his years of doing clinical work, research and teaching at Xavier University, LSU, Baylor College of Medicine, and Emory University, Dr. Ferdinand returned to New Orleans as a Professor of Clinical Medicine at the Tulane University Heart and Vascular Institute.

Dr. Ferdinand has been heavily involved in many national organizations concerned with public health, including the Association of Black Cardiologists, of which he was the former Chair and Chief Science Officer, the American Society of Hypertension, of which he was a board member, and the Healthy Heart Community Prevention Program, a cardiovascular risk program targeting African American and other highrisk populations. He is the immediate-past Chair of the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, which provides the leadership and encouragement for collaboration among over 65 organizations. Dr. Ferdinand focuses largely on cardiac risk factor evaluation and control, especially hypertension and hyperlipidemia, includ-

ing communities of racial and ethnic minorities. He has had over 100 manuscripts published and has a strong media presence. His passion for patient care is highlighted by his commitment to non-profit work and community service. In 2015 he was inducted into the Association of University Cardiologists. He also focused on improving patient care and eliminating health disparities by race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or gender through research and academic interests.

I am humbled to personally know such a great physician, who has done so much to improve the lives of countless residents across my district. We are so honored to have Dr. Ferdinand, a true advocate for patient care.

APPRECIATING CONGRESSMAN
ARTHUR RAVENEL, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, former Congressman Arthur Ravenel entered into eternal rest on January 16th. Congressman Ravenel was a pioneer in developing the modern Republican party in 1960, when there were no Republican elected officials at any level in South Carolina. In 2022, all statewide officials are Republican, with super majorities in the State House and Senate, being the largest Republican majorities at every level in 150 years. I especially appreciated his encouragement to begin a Teen Age Republican Club with State Party Vice Chairwoman Julia Ravenel Dougherty at the High School of Charleston for the presidential campaign of Senator Barry Goldwater. It is appropriate that the following tribute for Arthur Ravenel be provided.

Arthur Ravenel, Jr. was born March 29, 1927, to Mary Allen Boykin and Arthur Ravenel in Charleston, SC. He was raised on his father's small farm in St. Andrew's Parish. He attended public schools and was an Eagle Scout. After his graduation from St. Andrew's High School, he volunteered for the United States Marine Corps and was called to duty on his 18th birthday. After his service with the Marine Corps, he attended The College of Charleston on the GI Bill and graduated in 1950 with a degree in history. His first job was with the Westvaco Paper Mill as a laborer and in 1952 he started a home improvement business and built it into a successful general contracting and real estate firm so that he was able to retire at the age of 50 and devote his full energies to public service.

Mr. Ravenel began his career in politics in 1953 when he was elected to the SC House of Representatives where he served until 1958 and earned a reputation for being a conservationist. In the early 1960's he was instrumental in helping to build the modern day Republican Party, serving as the First District Chairman, the state finance chairman and as a Goldwater Delegate to the GOP Convention in San Francisco in 1964. In those early days of the GOP, he ran several unsuccessful races for the SC Senate and finally, in 1980 he and Glenn McConnell were elected as Republicans to the State Senate. In 1986 he ran for the US Congress upon the retirement of Thomas Harnett and served four terms in Washington.

In 1994, he ran for Governor but was defeated in the GOP Primary. In 1996, upon the request of Mayor Harry Hallman of Mt. Pleasant, he again ran for the SC Senate and led the effort to find the funding to replace the aging Cooper River Bridges. With the enthusiastic help of many, he accomplished the mission. The next year, frustrated with the failing schools in Charleston County, he again offered himself for public service and was elected to The Charleston County School Board.

During his long public service, Mr. Ravenel was affectionately known as "Cousin Arthur" for his tireless work on behalf of his constituents. In addition to helping find funding for the new bridge, he was also responsible for helping to secure the initial funding from the General Assembly to procure the Avery Institute at the College of Charleston. He was also instrumental in the creation of the Low Country Graduate Center, a cooperative venture of MUSC, The College of Charleston, The Citadel, USC and Clemson, through his efforts with the Charleston County Legislative Delegation and was particularly proud that it was done without the necessity of legislative action.

After the birth of his son, William, who has Down's Syndrome, he became a passionate advocate in creating and promoting services for the developmentally disabled and served as president of the SC Association for Retarded Children. He sponsored legislation with Senator Bill Mescher of Berkeley County to prevent The Department of Disabilities from closing any of its habitation centers without a vote of the General Assembly.

A lifelong conservationist and environmentalist, he was successful in getting passed an amendment to the State Appropriations Bill to assign a modest percentage of the documentary stamp revenues to purchase and protect South Carolina's natural and cultural heritage sites for the Heritage Land Trust Fund, which owns over a hundred thousand acres. He with his wife, Jean Rickenbaker Ravenel, have placed conservation easements over some of their own properties.

In 1995, he was asked by Governor David Beasley to head up the newly formed Redevelopment Authority created to breathe new life into the closed Charleston Naval Base. Within a few months, he successfully guided the RDA to lease out vital portions of the industrial area, including the dry docks leased to a local firm. He also assisted the Academic Magnet School in finding a new home on the Old Naval Base. When he left to return to the Senate, the RDA was well on the road to the outstanding success it now enjoys.

A life member of The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Mr. Ravenel was very proud of his grandfather, Edward Ravenel, who served as a courier on General Hardee's staff at The Battle of Bentonville in NC. Private Ravenel had been a member of the Stono Scouts which was made up of men from The Sea Islands surrounding Charleston and was led by Captain Walpole. While in the Senate, Mr. Ravenel was active in negotiations to remove the Confederate Battle Flag from the State House Dome to the Soldiers' Monument in the front of the Capitol.

During his service on the Charleston County School Board, he was most proud of leading the contentious and successful battle that resulted in the opening of the Math and Science Charter School.

A life long member of The French Huguenot Church, he was active in the revitalization of the church and traveled around the world interviewing prospective clergy for the reopening of the church. He served on its board for 55 years. He has also been a member of the St. Johns Hunt Club, The South Carolina Society, The Washington Light Infantry, The South Carolina Coastal Conservation League, The Carolina Yacht Club and The Fort Moultrie Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

He is survived by his brother, Edward Ravenel, his wife, Jean Rickenbaker Ravenel and his former wife, Louise Ravenel Dougherty, his six children; Suzanne Ravenel, Arthur Ravenel, III (Heidi), René R. Brockinton (Harvey), Eva R. Ravenel (of the late René Ravenel), William Ravenel, all of Charleston, SC and Thomas J.J. Ravenel of Aiken, SC. Four step-children, Jean Elliott Manning, Heath Manning, Jr. (deceased), Mary Locke Olliphant (Murray), and Dibble R. Manning (Carla) and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The family wishes to express their appreciation to his wonderful caregivers Geraldine Jameson, Luc Maxineau, Philip Edles, Paul Dennis, and The Lutheran Hospice of South Carolina.

CONGRATULATING LEE KLEIN ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to congratulate Mr. Lee Klein of Norfolk, Nebraska on his retirement.

Lee is a longtime public servant and advocate for agriculture, who has traveled to dozens of countries promoting our agricultural exports. Over the years, Lee has served in many capacities including Board Member for the National Corn Growers Association, Madison County Commissioner, and State Senator in the Nebraska Unicameral. These are just a few of the many roles he's played.

Most recently, he served as a representative for my District Office, helping to connect agricultural stakeholders to my work in Congress. He's been an outstanding ambassador for the First Congressional District.

On a more personal level, Lee has not only served on my staff, but he's also been a great friend and neighbor. As a fellow Norfolk resident, he brought a valuable local perspective to the team and a desire to help keep the district and our country moving forward.

On behalf of the First District of Nebraska, I offer Lee congratulations and best wishes on his retirement.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF WILLA "WILLIE" CASH

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Willa "Willie" Cash, a long-time resident and community mother of Detroit in

Michigan's 12th District Strong as we mourn her recent passing.

Ms. Cash was born to the late Reed Barbee and Daisy Lilly Glass Barbee in Ripley, Tennessee on August 21, 1937. She graduated from Osceola High School in Osceola Arkansas and graduated from Wilson Junior College in Chicago, Illinois with an associate degree in business. Willa was introduced to her late husband, James E. Cash, by a mutual friend and they married in 1962. They later gave birth to fraternal twins, La'Tanya and La'Trece, James and Willa were married 53 years at the time of his passing in 2015. Willa worked at Realco Company and James at Sears, Roebuck & Co. in Chicago, Illinois and in 1979 the family moved to Detroit.

Ms. Cash's work touched the lives of many when she transitioned to working for the State of Michigan Department of Unemployment Services, and later the Michigan Department of Human Services, where she served as a Family Independence Specialist before retiring in 1999 after 26 years of service.

Ms. Cash was a caring and concerned community member. She volunteered her time and energy with Unity Temple Apostolic Church of Detroit, the Greenwich Park Association Block Club, and she was a proud, lifelong registered voter, and a member-retiree of the UAW Region 1-A. Her hobbies included talking to her sister LaDora and friends daily, listening to her favorite gospel singer Lee Williams and the Spiritual QCs, and watching her favorite television programs.

Above all, Ms. Cash's love, concern, and compassion for her family were extraordinary. Nothing compared to the special bond for her only grandchild A'uston who was the light of her world. She and her husband James gave A'uston all their energy and resources to assist him in graduating college and becoming a successful overseas professional basketball player. They were extremely proud of him. She kept his college team poster in her trunk to show it off on occasion.

Please join me in recognizing Ms. Willa Cash's numerous contributions to our community as we honor her memory.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, January 9, 2023, I missed a vote on the motion on ordering the Previous Question (H. Res. 5). I would have voted "NAY" on roll call vote No. 21.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF SHERIFF JERRY SAUVE

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and service of retiring Marinette County Sheriff, Jerry Sauve.

Throughout his nearly 40 years in law enforcement, Sheriff Sauve has committed his

career to serving and protecting the people of Marinette County and Northeast Wisconsin. In 1984, Sheriff Sauve began his career as a Deputy at the Marinette County Sheriff's Office and gained numerous experiences that helped him throughout his 12 years as Sheriff. Over the years, Sheriff Sauve was able to witness the incredible evolution and growth in the Sheriff's Office, specifically in DNA matching technology that resulted in the resolution of a 40-year-old unsolved double homicide case. I commend Sheriff Sauve for his years of selfless service and commitment to Marinette County.

During his nearly 40 years in law enforcement, Sheriff Sauve has proven himself to be a true leader in the County. Sheriff Sauve has taken part in the law enforcement response to many of the most remembered cases that Marinette County has witnessed. Sheriff Sauve is leaving behind a notable legacy that will be admired by generations of officers for years to come. After retirement, Sheriff Sauve plans to spend time with his grandchildren and will enjoy hunting and fishing at his cabin, and I am confident that he will continue to benefit the Northeast Wisconsin community.

Mr. Speaker, today the people of Northeast Wisconsin thank Sheriff Jerry Sauve for his extraordinary devotion to his community. Sheriff Sauve's dedication and selfless service to Marinette County is deserving of the highest degree of recognition and honor. I wish Sheriff Sauve and his family all the best in retirement.

REMEMBERING ANNIVERSARY OF "BLACK JANUARY" IN AZER- BAIJAN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 33rd anniversary of the "Black January" killings in Azerbaijan.

On the night of January 20, 1990, approximately 26,000 Soviet troops stormed Azerbaijan's capital city of Baku in tanks and armored vehicles. The Soviet military bulldozed and open fired on innocent Azerbaijanis and peaceful protestors, including women and children. The attack resulted in 147 people killed, around 800 injured, 841 arrested, and 5 missing. I offer my thoughts and prayers to the families of those who gave their lives for the independence of Azerbaijan.

Despite these merciless acts, the Azerbaijani people continued to fight for their freedom and became independent in 1991. The United States was one of the first countries to recognize Azerbaijan's independence and fully established diplomatic relations on February 28, 1992.

As the co-chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I recognize the sacrifices of the Azerbaijani people in their steps toward a free-market economy and encourage a recommitment to the democratic values for which many Azerbaijanis sacrificed their lives.

CELEBRATING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF DEGRAY LAKE

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the creation of DeGray Lake. The 13,400-acre DeGray Lake was created when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) built DeGray Dam on the Caddo River for the purpose of flood control, electricity generation, and drinking water supply for the city of Arkadelphia.

DeGray Lake is vital in the economy of Southwest Arkansas. Thanks to the cooperation of USACE and the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, DeGray Lake Resort State Park, is responsible for more than \$36 million in economic activity and hundreds of jobs related to tourism in the surrounding area. DeGray Lake provides more than just economic and infrastructure benefits to the local populace, however. The lake also provides recreational opportunities such as swimming, hiking trails, camping, golfing, and horseback riding which are enjoyed by many Arkansans. And as we all know, the more time the public spends out in nature, the more we realize how critical it is to be good stewards of conserving our natural resources and the beauty of places like DeGray Lake.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for building DeGray Lake to serve the people of Southwest Arkansas and the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism for its work in helping preserve DeGray Lake.

HONORING JACK AND JILL OF AMERICA, INC.—IN CELEBRATION OF THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jack and Jill of America, Inc. in celebration of the 85th Anniversary of the organization's founding. Jack and Jill of America is a service organization of mothers dedicated to empowering African American children and families, ensuring they have the knowledge and resources to grow into young leaders. Jack and Jill of America Inc. was founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on January 24, 1938 by Marion Turner Stubbs Thomas with an idea conceived by Louise Truitt Jackson Dench to nurture and develop African American children. Joined by a trailblazing group of several other African American mothers, they overcame the challenges of racism and the Great Depression by uniting to provide their children with enriching experiences, activities, and friendships. Throughout the past 85 years, Jack and Jill of America has considerably expanded, currently consisting of 262 chapters organized in 7 regions across the United States and a membership of more than 17,000 mothers. Accordingly, Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated is regarded as the largest and most prominent African American family orga-

nization representing over 40,000 family members nationwide including mothers, fathers, and children ages 2 through 19. Commemorative events will be held in Washington, D.C. January 27, 2023, through January 29, 2023 with the theme, "Tell Them We Are Still Rising."

The 3rd Congressional District of Pennsylvania extends congratulations to Jack and Jill of America, Inc. for their commitment to shaping the lives of African American children for 85 years in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and throughout the United States.

OPPOSING THE UNCONSTITUTIONAL HORSERACING INTEGRITY AND SAFETY AUTHORITY

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the unconstitutional Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA). During the 117th Congress, I filed an amendment to the omnibus spending bill to strip language from the bill that had been intended to "fix" the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act, which was found unconstitutional by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals on November 18, 2022, because Congress had unlawfully delegated its lawmaking power to a private corporation called the "Authority". The Appeals Court said the Authority needed more oversight from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), but the language included in the omnibus had been hastily put together and failed to address the underlying issue raised by the Appeals Court. The so-called "fix" still did not allow the FTC to make policy decisions. The FTC still may only reject rules proposed by the Authority if they are inconsistent with the Act, but the Act is written so broadly that no rule will ever be rejected. After the rules have gone into effect, the FTC may now issue its own rules, but it still may do so only to make them consistent with the Act. It cannot impose its own policy decisions on the Authority's rules. Unfortunately, my amendment did not receive a vote in this era of governing by omnibus, but I will be working this Congress to pass legislation through regular order that will fix the constitutional problems with HISA.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ANN WINDLEY FOR HER SERVICE TO OUR NATION AND TO BEAUFORT COUNTY, N.C.

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Ann Windley, who has served our great Nation and the County of Beaufort, N.C. Mrs. Windley started her decades of service as a Naval officer, joining the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps at 21 years of age in May of 1945 and serving until April 1946. She was stationed at U.S. Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Virginia with the assignment to rehabilitate those service members who were wounded in action during

World War II and needed medical care before they could be released from active duty.

This is where she met her husband, Daniel Morgan Windley, III, a Marine who participated in the battle of Okinawa. They fell in love almost immediately and were married March 9, 1946, 3 months after they met, for 60 years.

They quickly settled down in Aurora, N.C. where her husband built the home Mrs. Windley lives in today. They had 5 children, Mary Lou, Daniel, William, John W., and Margaret. Three of their children also served in the military (Army, Air Force, and the Coast Guard) and her brother served in the Marines.

It is here, in beautiful Beaufort County, where Mrs. Windley began her decades of public service to Beaufort County. She served as a school nurse and then a county nurse, ultimately retiring from the Beaufort County school system after 2 decades of service.

Because of Mrs. Windley's outstanding dedication and great work ethic, she was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award by the American Red Cross. This prestigious award requires a minimum of 4,000 hours of documented volunteer service.

I am very grateful for her enduring public service to eastern North Carolina and for the incredible example she has set for all of us to follow in life. It is my honor to recognize her in the hallowed United States House of Representatives. God bless Mrs. Windley, and I thank her from the bottom of my heart for her decades of ceaseless service.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ISADORE THOMAS, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Isadore Thomas, Sr.

Isadore Thomas, Sr. departed this life on January 14, 2023, at the age of 77, with his loved ones by his side in Jackson, MS at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. He was born to the late Mable Wade Thomas and Anderson Thompson on August 5, 1945, in Holmes County.

He received Christ early in life and became a member of Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Isadore graduated from Tchula Attendance Center. He worked for Baldwin, J.J. Ferguson, and Mileston Headstart Center throughout his career. He operated the family store formally known as Anderson's Store for over 4 decades which became known as DOE'S.

He was known to the community as 'Big Doe.' He inspired others to heed the lessons of failure and understand the secret to getting ahead is never quit, but always try and do your best. His love for western movies, horse races, and fast sports cars was his favorite. During the 6 p.m. hour, he was always tuned into the news. When asked how he won his car races, he told his family, "Just hold it in the road and never look back until after you have won."

He leaves to cherish his memories with 1 brother, John W. Thomas (Chicago, Illinois) and he is survived by his former wife, Betty Thomas, and 3 sons, Isadore (Dianne) Thom-

as, Jr., Al (Tywone) Thomas, and Chaid (Lemuel) Thomas. One daughter Augusta Anderson, son Larry Thurmond; 1 granddaughter; 5 grandsons, 2 great-grandsons; 1 great-granddaughter; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

His memories live on with his special friends Dorothy Taylor, Johnnie (Yolanda) Holmes, Jimmie (Alice) Holmes, Ina (Richard) Watts, Joe (Patrice) Holmes, and Lorenzo Holmes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life, legacy, and service of Isadore Thomas, Sr.

RECOGNIZING COLDWELL BANKER TOWN & COUNTRY REAL ESTATE

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coldwell Banker Town & Country Real Estate of Altoona, as they celebrate an impressive 50 years in business.

Under the leadership of Bob Pennington and his talented team, Coldwell Banker Town & Country Real Estate has become a trusted, household name in the Blair County community. In both 1995 and 2008, the business was named the Number One Coldwell banker affiliate office in the United States, earning the team recognition in their competitive industry.

Bob Pennington discovered his passion for real-estate after first selling a property owned by his father—a feat he accomplished nearly immediately at the property's first open house. Town & Country Real Estate opened its doors in January of 1973, and eventually joined Coldwell Banker Residential Affiliates Inc. in 1986. Throughout 50 years of business, Pennington and his team have sold over 17,000 homes, assisting individuals and families recognize the American dream.

Throughout his career, Bob has led by example and been involved with a variety of community boards and initiatives.

I applaud Coldwell Banker Town & Country Real Estate on their 50 years in business and look forward to their continued success.

SOUTH DAKOTA 2022 CONGRES- SIONAL APP CHALLENGE WIN- NERS

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate South Dakota's 2022 Congressional App Challenge winners Katelyn and Casie Dale from Spearfish. The Dale sisters designed an app called "Lighthouse." This is Katelyn and Casie's second Congressional App Challenge victory after winning the 2021 Congressional App Challenge.

Technological literacy is a vital skill for success both in business and daily life. The goal of the App Challenge is to get students excited about the important and growing field of technology and coding. As a parent, I know how important it is to ensure the media we

surround ourselves with has a positive and healthy impact on how we live our lives, which is why I was especially impressed by Katelyn and Casie's submission. The "Lighthouse" app is a program to help kids and adults find literary material that is appropriate.

"While our brains are so amazing, they need to be protected. We are surrounded by all different kinds of media that, if we're not careful, can poorly program our brains especially those of young people and children in ways that we don't even notice or understand . . . that is why we created Lighthouse," said the Dales.

Congratulations again to Katelyn and Casie.

HONORING THE OXFORD, MICHIGAN COMMUNITY

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the strength, resilience, and heart of Oxford, Michigan: a small town that was forever changed on November 30, 2021. That day, the world watched in horror as news broke that a gunman had opened fire at Oxford High School, killing four people and injuring eight others. It was a community-wide tragedy the depth and breadth of which I have never experienced, and one that forever changed the trajectory of life for all those in and around Oxford.

But before it was a headline, Oxford was a close-knit town, the kind of place where neighbors reach out to help neighbors, where people of all ages gather at the local diner sporting Wildcat blue and gold before packing the stands for Friday night football games.

After the unimaginable happened, Oxford was fundamentally changed, clothed from head to toe in profound and overwhelming grief. While that grief will never completely lift, I have seen this community transform yet again through countless acts of kindness and bravery—both from around the world and from right within this community—because Oxford is a place where neighbors reach out to help neighbors.

The examples would fill a library, but to share just a few: the legions of Oxford businesses like Meijer, Sick Pizza, and Legacy Center that opened their doors to provide a safe haven for students and families and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support victims. Their contributions, both financial and emotional, are too numerous to count and will never be forgotten.

Oxford Township President Jack Curtis and Oxford Village President Joe Madore responded immediately to the crisis, and worked tirelessly to provide anything and everything they could. They led their boards to channel grief into action, banding together to bring every available resource—local, state, and federal—into this community. And dedicated public servant C.J. Carnacchio used his skill and stalwart determination to tell Oxford's story, playing a pivotal role in bringing meaningful benefits and resources into the community.

More than 30 emergency service agencies—police, fire, and EMS—rushed into the school that day, and today they continue to

show up to address the ongoing challenges of public safety, mental health support, and other needs for their own staff, for the schools, and for surrounding communities.

I continue to be amazed by the bravery and resilience of Oxford High School students, many of whom have become fierce advocates for gun safety and mental health. And I am in awe of the teachers and staff who define fortitude and service above self every day when, despite their own pain and suffering, they walk back into the building and turn their focus to their students.

In the days and months since the shooting, I have watched leaders emerge from every corner of Oxford, and through them I have seen how grief can walk hand-in-hand with hope, stitched with an indestructible fabric of Wildcat blue and gold. Because above all, Oxford is a place where neighbors reach out to help neighbors.

It has been the honor of my life to represent this community in Congress, and today while one tragic day broke Oxford's heart, it did not and it will not break this community's spirit. Through our collective grief, and through this declaration, may we forever honor the people of Oxford and the memories of Hana, Tate, Madisyn, and Justin.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS JUDICIAL VACANCY REDUCTION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Courts Judicial Vacancy Reduction Act. This bill would expedite the appointment of local D.C. judges. The sole purpose of this bill is to protect public safety and promote justice by ending the perpetual judicial vacancy crisis in the local D.C. courts.

The longstanding judicial vacancy crisis in the local D.C. courts, which delays resolution of criminal and civil cases, has existed regardless of which party controls the presidency and Senate because presidents and senators are, understandably, more focused on nominees to the federal courts and the executive branch than to the local D.C. courts.

This bill has nothing to do with D.C. statehood or home rule. Although D.C. will control the local D.C. courts when it becomes a state and Congress could—and should—give D.C. control over the local D.C. courts now, this bill would not give D.C. any new authority over the local D.C. courts.

Under the D.C. Home Rule Act, D.C. has no control over the organization or jurisdiction of the local D.C. courts, including the nomination and appointment of judges. A 7-member commission, which is comprised of federal, D.C. and private-sector appointees, submits to the president a list of 3 persons for each vacancy on the local D.C. courts. The president must nominate, and, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint 1 person from the list. If the president fails to nominate 1 of the persons from the list within 60 days, the commission must nominate, and, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint 1 of the persons from the list.

This bill would not change the role of the president or the commission in the appointment of local D.C. judges. Instead, it would apply the congressional review period for D.C. legislation to the appointment of local D.C. judges. Upon nomination, local D.C. judges would be appointed after the expiration of a 30-day congressional review period, unless a resolution disapproving of the appointment was enacted into law during that period.

Local D.C. judges are non-Article III judges. The Constitution only requires Senate approval of Article III judges—that is, judges on the federal district courts, the federal appeals courts and the U.S. Supreme Court. Congress has the discretion to decide how non-Article III judges will be appointed, and has chosen to subject some non-Article III judges to Senate approval, but not others. For example, Congress has not given itself any role in the appointment of bankruptcy or administrative law judges. This bill would strike a middle ground. Congress would retain the authority to block the appointment of local D.C. judges, but it would only have a limited time period to do so.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 77TH BIRTHDAY OF ROSEMARY STOKES

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 77th birthday of Rosemary Stokes.

Mrs. Stokes is a retired businesswoman who has accomplished so much in her lifetime. During a time when women didn't have a seat at the table, Rosemary was one of few female leaders for the Rite Aid Corporation. She was promoted from a Store Manager to train all new store managers in the Southeast.

Rosemary went on to open her own business specializing in plus size intimate apparel.

In her 60s, Rosemary returned to school and graduated from college. She is married to Billy Stokes and is blessed with three boys: BaSean, NaVan and Antione. She is passionate about her family.

Rosemary will be celebrated at the Oxford Civic Center on Friday, January 27th with family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Rosemary and wishing her a happy 77th birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF BAYTOWN, TEXAS

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Baytown, located in both Harris and Chambers Counties, Texas.

Present-day Baytown was incorporated on January 24, 1948, combining the communities of Goose Creek, Pelly, and Baytown. Baytown

is situated on the Texas Gulf Coast and is home to several of America's critical waterways: the Galveston Bay system, the Houston Ship Channel, and the Port of Cedar Bayou. It also shares the bay with the San Jacinto State Historic Site and San Jacinto Monument, where Texas gained its independence from Mexico in 1836. Early settlers of Baytown assisted the Texian Army during the Runaway Scrape.

Pioneers arrived in the area in the early 19th century and became known for rice farming and, later, brickmaking due to the high-quality clay found in the region. Over the course of a century, up to 12 million bricks a year were made at Cedar Bayou and shipped to Galveston.

Baytown, and the surrounding region, are known worldwide as innovators in the petrochemical industry. In 1908, the Goose Creek Oilfield became Texas's first offshore drilling operation and paved the way for significant growth and development. During World War II, the research conducted at the Baytown Refinery contributed to producing essentials like 100-octane fuel used in planes. Today, Exxon's Baytown Refinery is among the largest in the United States. Over the decades, many other leaders in the petrochemical industry have established a significant presence in Baytown and nearby communities. In addition to its industrial history, Baytown has long been committed to preserving the region's natural resources: saltwater and freshwater fishing, native marshland habitats, and waterfowl migration paths.

The following men have served the citizens of Baytown as Mayor: E.D. Cleveland; J.A. Ward; R.H. Pruett; Al Clayton; C.L. Liggett, MD; Seaborn Cravey; C. Glen Walker; Tom Gentry; Emmett O. Hutto; Allen Cannon; Pete C. Alfaro; Calvin Mundinger; Stephen H. DonCarlos; and Brandon Capetillo, who currently serves as Mayor.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize and celebrate the 75th anniversary of Baytown. May God bless this town and its citizens even more richly over the next 75 years.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF SHERIFF ADAM BIEBER

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the career and service of retiring Shawano County Sheriff Adam Bieber.

After 14 years in law enforcement, Sheriff Bieber began his tenure as Shawano County Sheriff in 2015. Throughout his career, Sheriff Bieber has been committed to serving the people of Shawano County and has worked to expand the Sheriff's Department and their services. I commend Sheriff Bieber for his unwavering dedication and commitment to ensuring the safety of Shawano County and Northeast Wisconsin.

During Sheriff Bieber's career with the Shawano County Sheriff's Department, transparency was one of his top priorities. Sheriff Bieber led and focused on elevating communication with the public by offering CPR/Heimlich Training, Concealed Carry Classes,

and a Citizens Academy. The Sheriffs Department also worked closely with schools throughout Shawano County to provide ALICE training. It is evident through his years of dedicated service that Sheriff Bieber's commitment to his community and Northeast Wisconsin never wavered.

I wish Sheriff Bieber all the best after his decades of service and dedication to the law enforcement community. While a true asset to our community will be missed, I am confident that he will make a difference in whatever his future holds.

Mr. Speaker, today the people of Northeast Wisconsin thank Sheriff Adam Bieber for his extraordinary service to the Shawano community. Sheriff Bieber's distinguished career is deserving of the highest degree of recognition.

REMEMBERING VINCENT ASTOR

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Vincent Astor, an early "out" gay activist, theatre historian and organist and a true icon of Memphis' distinct place in American cultural history, who passed last week at the age of 69. A flamboyant drag queen in his signature white wedding dress, Mr. Astor led Memphis gay pride events as "Lady A." A 1989 founder of OUTMemphis: The LGBTQ+ Community Center of the Mid-South, Mr. Astor was a well-known supporter of events promoting local history, including the screening of vintage movies, lectures and her-

itage events. A native Memphian and a quick wit, he graduated from what is now Rhodes College and was for decades the organist at the keyboards and peddles of the Orpheum Theatre's 1928 Wurlitzer organ. He often gave tours of the historic theatre on South Main Street famed for its ghost "Mary," killed by a trolley outside the theatre in the 1920s. Mr. Astor was also a large influence though a quiet voice in efforts to save the Orpheum and have it refurbished to its present glory hosting Broadway plays and musicals, concerts and other major public events. Gifted with a charismatic nostalgia, he literally wrote the book on Memphis' theatre legacy with *Images of America: Memphis Movie Theatres* (2013). In 2019, after advocacy by Mr. Astor, the Shelby County Historical Commission unveiled a marker outside Midtown's Evergreen Theatre recognizing the 50th anniversary of public drag pageants held there, and protesting a city ordinance against cross dressing. Mr. Astor will be buried in the historic Elmwood Cemetery under an obelisk he designed identifying him as both Vincent Astor and Lady A. I express my condolences to his many friends, colleagues and collaborators, and to the Mid-South LGBTQ+ community, all mourning their loss.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MAYOR JOE C. WISE JR.

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Mr. Joe C. Wise, Jr. of

Sheridan, Arkansas. Mayor Wise is an institution in the city of Sheridan. He began his service as city Treasurer in 1971 and was first elected Mayor in 1988. For a total of 52 years, Mayor Wise has honorably served the citizens of Sheridan.

Local leaders like Mayor Wise are the backbone of America, as they assess and address the needs of their communities. Mayor Wise has been instrumental in the growth and prosperity Sheridan has experienced. One of Mayor Wise's top priorities throughout his time in office has been to improve Sheridan's infrastructure. This work has included expanding the city's wastewater system and paving all the streets in Sheridan.

Developing recreational opportunities for the people of Sheridan has also been a big priority for Mayor Wise. During his time as mayor, he created a system of walking trails and expanded the city's fantastic community center. To ensure the longevity and continued development of these investments in the community, Mayor Wise also focused his energy on working closely with Sheridan's police and fire departments to ensure that public safety was at the core of Sheridan's growth. This work has helped Sheridan flourish, and the impacts of these projects are being felt daily by local families and businesses. Thanks to all that Mayor Wise has done, future generations of Sheridan residents will have a legacy they can build on and be proud to share.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mayor Wise for his life of service and dedication to the people of Sheridan.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Interim Résumé of Congressional Activity, 117th Congress, 2nd Session.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S61–S78

Measures Introduced: Thirty-five bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 27–61, and S.J. Res. 4.

Pages S74–75

Appointments:

Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group conference: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d–276g, as amended, appointed the following Senator as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group conference during the 118th Congress: Senator Klobuchar.

Page S71

Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to the provisions of 20 U.S.C., sections 42 and 43, appointed the following Senators as Members of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: Senator Cortez Masto (reappointment) and Senator Peters.

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Messages from the House:

Page S73

Measures Read the First Time:

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Executive Communications:

Pages S73–74

Additional Cosponsors:

Page S75

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S75–78

Additional Statements:

Pages S72–73

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Page S78

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:02 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 25, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S78.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

COMPETITION IN LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine promoting competition and protecting consumers in live entertainment, after receiving testimony from Joe Berchtold, Live Nation Entertainment, Inc., Beverly Hills, California; Jack Groetzinger, SeatGeek, and Clyde Lawrence, Lawrence, both of New York, New York; Jerry Mickelson, Jam Productions, LLC, Chicago, Illinois; Sal Nuzzo, The James Madison Institute, Tallahassee, Florida; and Kathleen Bradish, American Antitrust Institute, Washington, D.C.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 47 public bills, H.R. 446–492; 1 private bill, H.R. 493; and 4 resolutions, H. Res. 52–55, were introduced.

Pages H275–78

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H279–80

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Rosendale to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H255

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote.

Page H267

Recess: The House recessed at 12:22 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

Page H257

Recess: The House recessed at 2:08 p.m. and reconvened at 5:30 p.m.

Page H258

Recess: The House recessed at 5:53 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

Page H265

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Implementing merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring: H.R. 159, amended, to implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nay vote of 422 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 32; and

Pages H258–62, H265–66

Settlement Agreement Information Database Act of 2023: H.R. 300, amended, to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of settlement agreements, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-

nay vote of 425 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 33.

Pages H262–65, H266–67

Quorum Calls Votes: Two yeas-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H265–66 and H266–67.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Foreign Relations: to receive a closed briefing on around the world threat assessment, 10:30 a.m., SVC–217.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Charnelle Bjelkengren, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, Matthew P. Brookman, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana, Michael Farbiarz, and Robert Kirsch, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, and Orelia Eleta Merchant, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SVC–217.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

SECOND SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House.

The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3, 2022 through January 3, 2023

	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>	<i>Total</i>
Days in session	178	164	..
Time in session	958 hrs., 32'	621 hrs., 48'	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	10,113	10,550	..
Extensions of Remarks .....	..	1,368	..
Public bills enacted into law	101	146	247
Private bills enacted into law .....	..	2	2
Bills in conference	1	1	..
Measures passed, total	629	621	1,250
Senate bills	180	130	..
House bills	154	371	..
Senate joint resolutions	6	..	..
House joint resolutions	2	2	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	11	7	..
House concurrent resolutions	8	14	..
Simple resolutions	268	97	..
Measures reported, total	*371	446	817
Senate bills	274	3	..
House bills	63	341	..
Senate joint resolutions	1	..	..
House joint resolutions .....	..	..	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	4	..	..
House concurrent resolutions .....	..	..	..
Simple resolutions	29	102	..
Special reports	4	42	..
Conference reports .....	..	..	..
Measures pending on calendar	422	202	..
Measures introduced, total	2,388	4,128	6,516
Bills	1,929	3,357	..
Joint resolutions	37	39	..
Concurrent resolutions	28	59	..
Simple resolutions	394	673	..
Quorum calls .....	..	1	..
Yea-and-nay votes	421	532	..
Recorded votes .....	..	16	..
Bills vetoed .....	..	..	..
Veto overridden .....	..	..	..

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3, 2022 through January 3, 2023

Civilian nominees, totaling 679 (including 181 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	452
Unconfirmed	197
Withdrawn	30
Returned to White House	197
Other Civilian nominees, totaling 1,630 (including 291 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1,242
Unconfirmed	388
Returned to White House	388
Air Force nominees, totaling 6,377 (including 5 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	6,327
Unconfirmed	50
Returned to White House	50
Army nominees, totaling 8,234 (including 1,992 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	6,145
Unconfirmed	2,089
Returned to White House	2,089
Navy nominees, totaling 4,524 (including 1 nominee carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	4,523
Withdrawn	1
Marine Corps nominees, totaling 555 (including 321 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	553
Unconfirmed	2
Returned to White House	2
Space Force nominees, totaling 472 (including 2 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	472
<i>Summary</i>	
Total nominees carried over from the First Session	2,793
Total nominees received this Session	19,678
Total confirmed	19,714
Total unconfirmed	2,726
Total withdrawn	31
Total returned to the White House	2,726

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 234 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 488 reports have been filed in the House.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, January 25

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, January 25

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will be in a period of morning business.

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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Congressional Record

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